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God bless the Christmas deadline
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Your guide to Christmas off-the-cuff

HOW AN ATHEIST FOUND FAITH

Brown attacks critics of reform

Labour 'true defender of welfare state'

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

GORDON BROWN last night went on the offensive against critics of Labour's welfare shake-up, declaring that the "true defenders of the welfare state are those who are prepared to reform it".

The Chancellor of the Exchequer told Old Labour opponents fighting to derail the biggest reform in 50 years that the "war against poverty in Britain can only be won by the modernisers".

In an interview with *The Times*, Mr Brown also sought to reassure his party at all levels, including the Cabinet, that the review would be carried out in a sensitive way.

It was not, he said, being driven by the need to make cuts but to improve the system by providing more opportunity to work and more security for those who could not do a job. It would not be an "indiscriminate slash-and-burn exercise".

He told critics there would be no backing down. Recent revolts, he suggested, confirmed that some people took time to get used to the idea that "defending the status quo is not the best way forward".

The day after Tony Blair made plain that he was taking overall charge of a process that could make or break his Government, Mr Brown was uncompromising on the need for change, insisted that there was a will for it in the party, and claimed that when the minutes of Cabinet discussions were revealed they would show unanimity for reform.

But after a weekend in

which a letter to him from David Blunkett opposing proposals to alter disability benefits gave the first sign of a serious Cabinet split on the issue, Mr Brown tackled head-on the fears of the Left and welfare campaigners that the needy could be hit in the general search for reductions in the £100 billion a year social security budget.

He said: "The reform of welfare is based on principle. It is not cuts-driven; it is not economy-inspired. It is in

The war against poverty can only be won by the modernisers

spired by the need to have a modern system that meets the needs of people and provides the opportunities to them that they need."

He added: "This is the biggest reform for 50 years. It is something we approach with proper sensitivity to the needs of those people who are dependent on the welfare state. To say that it is an indiscriminate slash-and-burn exercise is completely wrong. This is inspired by the need to restore the welfare state to its original purpose of opportunity and security for all on the basis that the true defenders of the welfare state are those that are prepared to make the reforms that are necessary."

Mr Brown said that he had

never flinched from difficult decisions and would not do so now; he recalled that as Shadow Chancellor he had first been criticised for his plan to prevent young people taking benefit if they refused all the options available under the welfare-to-work scheme but it was now accepted in the party.

The Chancellor denied suggestions that the Prime Minister's decision to take overall control of the review was a slight to him. He had been keen on the most comprehensive review of welfare and did not think it could have been done any other way.

He then issued his battle cry for reform in a way that suggested he accepts the view of many politicians and commentators that only a Labour Government with a thumping majority could ever carry out a true reform of the welfare state.

He said: "The war on poverty, which is what we are fighting, was never won in the past by the old methods. The war on poverty can only be won by the modernisers, prepared to look at how policies have failed in the past and how new approaches are needed to look at the overall use of resources, prepared to generate an anti-poverty strategy that tackles the causes of poverty, which includes unemployment and lack of skills, and prepared to look comprehensively — not in a piecemeal way — at how we can help.

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Protesters at the gates of Downing Street yesterday. They said that the Government saw them as "soft targets". A dozen were arrested, but later released

Downing St protest ends in arrests

By TIM JONES

TWELVE severely disabled people protesting against possible cuts in benefits were arrested yesterday after they spattered Downing Street with red paint, handcuffed themselves to the gates and accused Tony Blair of treating them as easy targets.

The 12 were released after receiving formal warnings.

Some of the demonstrators were handed begging bowls by the Disabled People's Direct Action Network, which organised the protest and claimed the paint symbolised the blood that the Prime Minister was "sucking out" of their

hopes, dreams and dignity.

Chanting slogans saying Mr Blair should be ashamed of himself, 20 people who took part in the protest promised that this was just the beginning of a huge protest against benefit cuts. A few of them eased themselves from their wheelchairs and rolled in the paint. Others who handcuffed themselves to the gates vowed that although they had always voted Labour, they would never do again. Police, who halted traffic in Whitehall for a few minutes, used bolt cutters to remove them. Mr Blair was not at Downing Street during the protest. He was touring a factory in his constituency of Sedgefield, County Durham.

Rachel Hurst, chairwoman of the lobby group Rights Now, said: "It is frightening

that following the weekend leaks, Mr Blair has not denied the cuts are going to happen. I have people on the telephone to me who are in tears and threatening suicide."

Susanne Bull, 27, a charity worker who has spina bifida, said: "Without my mobility allowance I would be trapped in my house and have to claim all the benefits, costing the Government much more."

Kevin Donnellon, 35, from Liverpool, a thalidomide victim, said: "I feel the Government is picking on us as soft targets, but we are not going to give up without a huge fight."

Conrad Russell, page 16



Spurs welcome back Klinsmann

Jürgen Klinsmann, who left Tottenham Hotspur in acrimonious circumstances 2½ years ago, yesterday returned from the Italian club Sampdoria on a loan deal. Tottenham are languishing third from bottom of the Premiership, with only five wins from 19 games so far this season. Page 40

Delia's stake

Delia Smith, the cookery writer, and her husband Michael Wynn Jones, the publisher, have bought the majority shareholding in Norwich City football club. Page 5

Beef farmers urged to quit after £85m emergency deal

By ANDREW PIERCE AND MICHAEL HORNBY

THE Government paved the way yesterday for many beef farmers to leave the land in a radical restructuring of the industry as it announced a one-off £85 million emergency package.

Dr Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister, who confirmed that there would be a year-long inquiry into the BSE crisis, emphasised that a drastic reduction in the size of the business was essential and said farmers should prepare for root and branch restructuring.

The minister served notice on beef farmers that the days of heavy government subsidies were over. The new priority was to reduce the size of the industry by luring farmers off the land through measures such as retirement schemes partly funded by the European Union.

He said that last year, £2 billion had been paid to the beef industry and a further £1.4 billion was being spent in the current financial year be-

fore the £85 million was taken into account.

"These are very large sums indeed. They cannot be maintained indefinitely," he said. Referring to the £85 million, he said: "I must emphasise that these payments are exceptional and one-off."

Dr Cunningham said the long-awaited inquiry would be chaired by Lord Justice Phillips and take a year. It will encompass Creutzfeld-Jakob Disease, the human form of BSE, which has cost the lives of more than 20 people. The Tories, who promised to co-operate with the investigation, said it was a gift to other EU states, who did not want the ban on British beef lifted.

While the National Farmers' Union welcomed the £85 million as a "lifeline" for hard-pressed beef farmers, Dr Cunningham said they had to face a new reality: there was an oversupply of beef throughout Europe and a long-term decline in consumption. Sub-

stantial restructuring was required. It had to begin immediately.

"In the interests of consumers, taxpayers, the environment, and not least the farmers themselves, we must reform the beef industry so that it becomes economically and environmentally sustainable. Our long-term aim should be to reduce the scale of subsidy to producers."

Ministers were planning early consultations with the farming industry to achieve the reduction. They would explore whether the EU's early retirement scheme and other structural measures could play a part.

Dr Cunningham said that the £85 million, which the Tories dismissed as "Scrooge-like", included £60 million from the EU to offset the effects of sterling revaluations and poor sales. Most of the benefit would go to some 30,000 hill farmers who have been hardest hit. The remain-

ing £25 million was to be given to farmers in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Continued on page 2, col 4

Al Fayed nearer to British citizenship

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

MOHAMED AL FA耶D, the chairman of Harrods, was hopeful last night of achieving his ambition of becoming a British citizen after the Government said his application would be reconsidered.

Jack Straw told MPs that the Government was abandoning its challenge to a Court of Appeal ruling that the Conservative Government had unlawfully rejected citizenship applications by Mr Al Fayed and Ali Fayed, his brother. The Home Secretary told MPs in a written Commons answer that he would now consider the Egyptian-born brothers' requests for naturalisation "on their merits". He also said that in future all applicants for citizenship would be told the reasons for their refusal if they were rejected. In 1996, about 43,000 people were given citizenship and 5,000 were rejected.

He said that Mr Straw's announcement was important for very many people who had applications for naturalisation rejected but who were not given reasons for the rejection.

Home Office sources said that it would be months rather than weeks before Mr Straw reached a decision on the applications.

Mr Al Fayed's anger at his failure to gain citizenship under the Conservatives fuelled his feud with the Tory Party and culminated in the cash-for-questions affair.

Man in the News, page 2

SAFARI



Reading The Times overseas
Australia £1.50; Canada \$1.50; Cyprus £1.20; Denmark Dkr 100;
Finland Frk 30; France F 16.00;
Germany DM 1.50; Greece Dr 6.50; Netherlands Fl 5.50;
Italy L 4,500; Luxembourg Lf 80;
Malta M 1.50; Mexico M 1.50;
Morocco Dir 50; Norway Kr 25.00;
Portugal Con Esc 350; Spain Pts 325;
Sweden Skr 25.00; Switzerland Sfr 100;
USA \$1.00; Turkey Dr 200.

Retired miners face cut in free coal allowance

By PAUL WILKINSON

THOUSANDS of retired miners and their widows face a cut in the amount of free coal they are entitled to receive, breaking a promise made to them at the time of privatisation.

About 200,000 people receive the benefit, worth up to £500 a year, which was negotiated as part of pay settlements many years ago. Working miners receive up to five tonnes; others receive around three tonnes.

The allocation is based on the price of top-quality British coal, but the

Government has said it wants to change that to less expensive coal, much of which is imported from Korea and China. For those who cannot obtain the cheaper coal it will mean less fuel. Peter McNestry, the national secretary of Naacs, the pit deputies union, believes a recalculations could cost pensioners and widows up to £150 a year.

The move is expected to spark a fresh confrontation between miners and the Government when it is discussed by both sides at the Department of Trade and Industry next month. It could also lead to a court challenge on the legality of breaking the pledge given by Tim Eggar, the minister responsible for the coal industry in the last Government.

The DTI has told miners' leaders that coal entitlements are to be "rebalanced" to keep in line with European law. John Battle, the Energy Minister, said that there was "an urgent need" to have new arrangements in place by April.

Mr McNestry said: "This will hit people very hard. Some old people depend on it to get through the winter.

There is a perception that this is free coal. It isn't. Miners gave up pay increases to get this benefit."

He said Mr Eggar, the Conservative Energy Minister, had given a pledge that the Government would safeguard the concessionary fuel entitlements of British Coal.

Pat Carragher, the general secretary of the British Association of Colliery Management, said: "Thus is clearly an attempt to save money despite an agreement with the last Government."

Scargill disqualified, page 6

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A victory for gloom over comfort and joy

IT WOULD take (to misquote Dr Johnson) a surgical operation to get ridings of comfort and joy into the understanding of a Member of Parliament. MPs gathered yesterday for their last day's proceedings before Christmas, to question the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, and to remind each other, and Britain, what a wicked old world this.

The closest anyone came to seasonal jollity was when Bob Laxton (Lab, Derby N) presented Madam Speaker with a single, rather manky-looking, Christmas stocking. It was empty. Apparently it had come from his constituents, David and Mary, in Derby. Mr Laxton held up this questionable offering, dangling limply from one

hand, as Betty Boothroyd did her best to fix her features into that "just what I always wanted" expression.

Invited to join this first gesture of new Labour's Givings Age, the pleasantly understated junior minister Alan Michael looked doubtful and glanced nervously at Miss Boothroyd. "As there is only one stocking, Madam Speaker, and as it is empty, I assume it is to be filled by Father Christmas, and not by Madam Speaker's leg..." He trailed off.

Miss Boothroyd looked tolerant, but faintly unmoved. It is really not done to mention Madam Speaker's legs, either of them, in the chamber. The only part of Madam Speaker we may

mention with impunity is her eye, which members strive assiduously to catch.

The House moved to Question 3, which seemed to promise more. Sir Teddy Taylor (C, Rochford and Southend E) wanted to know about licensing hours.

Assuming that Sir Teddy's seasonal wish was to add to the national stock of jollity, George Howarth, a Home Office junior minister, answered as though anticipating a request for opening hours to be relaxed. Mr Howarth may have misread

his own official portfolio title — "deregulation, drugs" — missed out the comma, and thought he was supposed to deregulate drugs. He said there was a case for longer hours for pubs but it must be balanced by the needs of neighbours.

Sir Teddy, of course, is an anti-European of the foam-flecked-lips tendency. Generous licensing hours are a continental phenomenon. Ergo (or, as Sir Teddy would not have it, *donc*)... well, you can guess. He lashed out at lax opening hours. There was

"huge concern" that they might be extended. Why didn't ministers concentrate on advertising "the dangers of alcohol"? Howarth scuttled for cover and agreed.

Ian Cawsey (Lab, Brigg & Goole) wanted to ask about "staggering". To giggles, he explained he meant staggering in the temporaneous sense: staggering hours, for instance, of nightclubs. We looked up at Mr Cawsey, momentarily hopeful that this might be an MP with a sense of fun. But no. "I must point out," he told the chair, "that I have no personal interest in the nightclubs industry. Those days are long gone." Our last hope of merriment died when Peter Brooke (C, Cities of London & Westminster),

ASHLEY COOMBE



Gordon Brown yesterday: "The welfare state in recent years has absorbed more cash but not relieved poverty"

Brown justifies reforms

Continued from page 1

why we lost. People thought we had become arrogant, that we had become sleazy, that we did not listen, and that we were out of touch. So we have to put those things right," Mr Hague added.

He said that in 1998 they would complete the biggest reorganisation of the party since Benjamin Disraeli. "We are going to make it a much more attractive proposition to join the Conservative Party. We are going to involve the members much more in our party. We are going to give them a vote in the affairs of our party," he said.

The Labour leadership under Neil Kinnock staged the "Labour Listens" campaign after the Thatcher landslide election victory in 1987. The Tories deny that they have copied Labour.

They maintained that they are anxious to consult the public widely as Peter Lilley, the Shadow chancellor, begins the task of reviewing every policy pledge and commitment. It is a move which also has echoes of Tony Blair who dumped policies which he feared could alienate voters in Middle England.

The consultation will involve pressure groups and community organisations. "We will talk to party activists as well. But we are determined to reach out," said a Tory official.

□ Dame Shirley Porter, the former leader of Westminster City Council, should be stripped of her title, the Commons was told yesterday as Tories were urged to condemn her for her part in the "homes for votes" affair. No Conservatives rose at question time either to condemn or defend the Tesco heiress who was confirmed by the High Court on Friday of being guilty of "wilful misconduct".

The exercise is in response to the admission by the Tory leadership that the party had become woefully out of touch with ordinary voters at the last election. They will consult with doctors, nurses, teachers and other organisations which felt alienated after 18 years of Tory rule. "We understand

surprising that child poverty had risen dramatically. The welfare state is failing millions of people who depend upon it and at the same time millions who contribute towards it."

Labour would not realise the 1945 Beveridge principles — opportunity and security for all — without making major reforms that tackled the causes of poverty.

It was pressing ahead with the welfare-to-work programme to enable those who could work to have work. "We are moving ahead with reforms that will make work pay. We will not be diverted from our determination to ensure that we have a better system to reward work through the tax and benefit system so that we move from a society where large numbers of people believe they are better off not working to a society where people are better off working." But the Government was also determined that all those who were

need an incapable of work were properly provided for. Mr Brown said that he had insisted that all areas of public expenditure were examined to ensure that where public resources were provided they went to those who needed them most.

Asked whether the process had got off to a dreadful start because of the lone parent defeat and reports of Cabinet divisions, Mr Brown said: "It will take some time to get used to the idea that defending the status quo is not the best way forward." Did he believe there was a will in the party and the Cabinet for change after the Government's recent difficulties? "Indeed I do," he replied.

"People are coming to understand that the dividing line between doing nothing and betrayal is outdated."

Mr Brown tried to play down the Blunkett letter. "David has made absolutely clear he is 100 per cent behind the comprehensive review led by Tony Blair."

Letters, page 17

Beef farm cuts

Continued from page 1

Continuing £25 million, 25 per cent funded by the EU, would come in the form of increased hill livestock compensatory allowances for 1998. Farmers estimate the package is worth an average of £300 a year to an average lowland suckler cow producer and £1,400 to a full farmer with 38 cows.

Dr Cunningham said that the inquiry into the "national human tragedy" of BSE was essential. BSE had "literally been a disaster". He said the Government was not interested in using the inquiry as a political point-scoring exercise.

Sir David Naish, the president of the National Farmers' Union, said the inquiry would have his "full co-operation", but voiced concern that it might offer the European Union a further excuse to postpone lifting the ban on British beef. "The progress already made in the European arena must not be delayed," he said.

Lord Callaghan of Cardiff, the last Labour prime minister, Baroness Thatcher and John Major may be called to give evidence. Tony Blair has written to William Hague, Lady Thatcher and John Major to ask them to release any necessary papers. Ministers would answer to the House after the inquiry's report.

The Tories attacked the announcements, which Michael Jack, the shadow agriculture spokesman, said was a victory for the Treasury. "You

have failed British agriculture," he told Dr Cunningham.

Farmers last night promised their full support for the BSE inquiry, despite misgivings about the wisdom of holding it now. They said the £8 million package would bring "much-needed relief".

But they said the assistance fell far short of what was needed, and are to hold a rally in London in mid-January. They will press the Government for the full £300 million to which they say they are entitled as compensation for the strong pound.

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He said the NFU would welcome the opportunity to discuss a restructuring of the beef industry, and an early retirement scheme for farmers. "We warned Dr Cunningham that current EU schemes were insufficiently funded. Farmers in the South West, one of the regions worst hit by the beef crisis, dismissed the aid package as inadequate and predicted more farmers' protests in the New Year.

Would-be Briton who is still cold-shouldered

BY RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

HE OWNS Harrods, the Ritz in Paris, the Duke of Windsor's former home in Paris and through his sponsorship of the Royal Windsor Horse Show has contact with the Queen.

But despite Mohamed Al Fayed's avid courtship of the Establishment, he looks like being forever the outsider.

But Jack Straw's announcement that he is to reconsider citizenship applications of Mr Al Fayed and his brother Ali provides hope that they may both win their struggle to be British.

It provides some solace for Mr Al Fayed at the end of four traumatic months after the deaths of his son, Dodi and Diana, Princess of Wales.

His reaction in the aftermath of that tragedy provides an example of why he is viewed with such suspicion and hostility. On the eve of the Princess's funeral it was disclosed that he had passed her last words to a member of her family and that he had requested that a silver plaque inscribed with a poem written for the Princess be placed in her coffin.

Controversy has surround-

NEWS IN BRIEF

Former policewoman sues over child care

A former policewoman is suing Tayside Police for compensation, claiming she was forced to quit her job because senior officers refused to acknowledge her responsibilities as a mother. Shirley Anderson, 31, alleges that male police officers do not face the same problems as their female counterparts because they are not recognised as the main child-carer in the family. She told an industrial tribunal in Dundee that her problems started last December when she disobeyed an order which would have meant there was no one to look after her year-old daughter.

Sun-seekers fly out

Holidaymakers in search of December sunshine flew out yesterday, as a rainy Christmas was forecast and the bookmakers William Hill lengthened the odds of a white Christmas to 10-1. Gatwick reported its busiest day of the winter. Over the next two weeks some 900,000 people are expected to take winter holidays, the two most popular destinations being Tenerife and the Costa del Sol in the south of Spain.

Forecast, page 20

Burglars' lonely victim

An 80-year-old widower who died after a burglary at his home may have been unconscious for up to five days on his kitchen floor before being discovered by a neighbour last Saturday. Stephen Clayton, who lived alone on the Braesholme council estate in Hull, suffered a stroke which police believe may have been caused by the shock of either discovering the break-in or possibly confronting the burglars in his house.

Lockerbie trial ruling

Libya was under pressure last night to guarantee the appearance in court of two men accused of the Lockerbie bombing after a United Nations report concluded that they would receive a fair trial under Scottish law. The Crown Office in Edinburgh said: "Libya should now stop prevaricating and secure the appearance of the accused for trial." Monday was the ninth anniversary of the date on which 270 people died when Pan Am flight 103 exploded.

Doubts of the Kirk

A survey by *The Scotsman* conducted last week found that 35 per cent of 150 Church of Scotland ministers questioned doubted the immediate conception and virgin birth. All the ministers answered "Yes" when asked whether they believed Jesus was God come to earth. But a third answered "No" or "Don't know" to questions on whether God's Holy Spirit was responsible for the conception and whether Mary was a virgin when Jesus was born.

Water company praised

A water authority at the centre of a Government inquiry into how 54,000 people in the north of Glasgow were left without clean water for days, has been shortlisted for a quality award. West of Scotland Water was named as one of 19 organisations to be considered for a Convention of Scottish Local Authorities award. The Labour MP for Clydebank, Tony Worthington, said: "Surely they can have no chance in winning any award after their performance".

Hooligans lose appeal

A French appeal court confirmed sentences of eight months' imprisonment, with four months suspended, against three British football fans convicted of attacking a man in a Strasbourg street after the Strasbourg-Liverpool match that Liverpool lost 3-0. Matthew Godden, 21, a shop assistant, James Kerr, a sports shop manager, and Paul Roach, a roofer, have been in prison since October 22, the day after the match.

Season of inefficiency

Heavy drinking before Christmas is taking its toll on the economy, according to a report. Almost two thirds of the 140 firms surveyed by the London Chamber of Commerce reported productivity losses because employees were overindulging. Illness, lack of concentration and impaired powers of judgment were all cited as factors undermining performance, said Simon Sperry, the chamber's chief executive.

Neil Kinnock

In a leading article on party funding (November 16) we referred to Neil Kinnock as Leader of the Opposition, finding "himself in Robert Maxwell's debt to his discredit". It was not meant to suggest that either Mr Kinnock or his private office, as opposed to the Labour Party, received any financial donations from Mr Maxwell, and we regret any misunderstanding.

Letters, page 17

Hague on video to break with the past

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

WILLIAM HAGUE has delivered his Christmas broadcast to the Tory faithful with a promise of the biggest shake-up of the party in more than 100 years.

The Tory leader, who was filmed standing next to a Christmas tree at Conservative Central Office, talked for three-and-a-half minutes without a script to announce the largest public consultation exercise the party has undertaken. The film, complete with a copy of his only party political broadcast since he became Tory leader, has been sent to every Tory association. It has been dubbed William's Christmas Cracker at Conservative Central Office.

The three-month Listening to Britain campaign, which has echoes of a previous Labour exercise will be conducted in town halls, community centres, and village halls. It will be led by members of the Shadow Cabinet. In his broadcast, Mr Hague promises that the Tories will listen and not lecture, and put right what people thought was wrong with the party.

In a break with the traditional written Christmas message of Tory leaders Mr Hague recorded his video address shortly before his wedding. In it he said: "In the new year we are going to launch Listening to Britain: the biggest exercise we have ever mounted in making sure that our MPs are listening to, and in touch with, the people of this country."

The exercise is in response to the admission by the Tory leadership that the party had become woefully out of touch with ordinary voters at the last election. They will consult with doctors, nurses, teachers and other organisations which felt alienated after 18 years of Tory rule. "We understand

why we lost. People thought we had become arrogant, that we had become sleazy, that we did not listen, and that we were out of touch. So we have to put those things right," Mr Hague added.

He said that in 1998 they would complete the biggest reorganisation of the party since Benjamin Disraeli. "We are going to make it a much more attractive proposition to join the Conservative Party. We are going to involve the members much more in our party. We are going to give them a vote in the affairs of our party," he said.

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Teenage bully says 'I still love my parents'

By PETER FOSTER

A VIOLENT teenager whose parents took court action to ban him from the family home after he threatened them was preparing to spend Christmas alone in a homeless shelter last night.

Robert Foraker, 19, is forbidden by a court order from contacting his mother and father who called in police after he threatened to attack them last month. After he was released from custody yesterday he said: "I love them both very much, but I just can't live with them."

He had just sentenced to six months' probation by magistrates at Mildenhall, Suffolk, for causing criminal damage and threatening violence against his father. After the hearing he stood on a round-about two miles from his parents' house, hitching a lift to Bury St Edmunds where he plans to spend Christmas.

The outburst last month, in which Foraker smashed a window, a lavatory and a mobile phone, was the last straw for his parents Robert and Margaret. At an earlier hearing magistrates were told how Foraker's violent outbursts against his parents had escalated out of control. He was arrested on November 12

and later appeared before magistrates on eight charges of harassment and one of criminal damage to property worth more than £300.

The court heard how Foraker had constantly bullied and threatened his parents, with two incidents in October and five more in November.

He was also charged with breaching a court order relating to an earlier assault on his father.

In June this year he was sentenced to two years' probation for common assault. Two months later, in August, he was given one day's detention for theft and failing to answer bail, the court heard.

After the hearing Foraker, an only child, admitted he had behaved badly, claiming that he had become "so frustrated" when living at home. His father, an American who works as an administrative officer at Mildenhall air base, said after his son's conviction earlier this month that he had no option but to call the police.

"What he has done is wrong, but I don't want him to go to prison any more than I would anyone else's son," he added.

Foraker, who says he has been at odds with his parents

since he first began taking drugs at the age of 11 is not hopeful of an early reconciliation. "My parents are good people and they are good to me. I love them both very much, mum and dad, but I just can't live with them," he said.

Mr and Mrs Foraker live in the village of Tuddenham-St-Mary which sits in between the cluster of RAF bases where they both work. According to their son, they met in the 1960s when Mr Foraker, now a retired master sergeant in the US Air Force, was stationed in Britain. The family have lived in England since moving from America when their son was about four years old. They now live in a smart flint-exterior cottage with a sizable back garden.

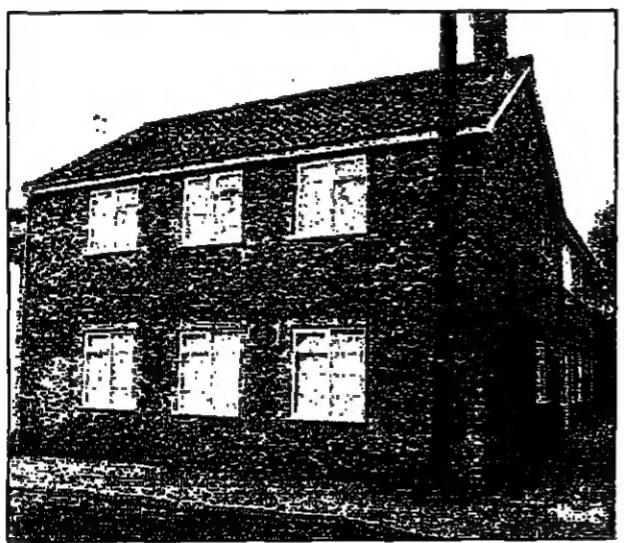
After his release yesterday the slim teenager, who spent more than five weeks in Norwich jail on remand, could not say exactly how, why or when his relationship with his parents had broken down.

"I suppose I've been in trouble ever since I started taking drugs when I was 11. But I don't do any of that now."

Foraker, who is well spoken and occasionally apologises unnecessarily for his manners, identified a turning point after taking an overdose 2½ years ago and ending up in hospital. "Things have never been the same since. I have just a different attitude to everything," he said. Since then Foraker said he had fought endlessly with his parents. The five weeks he spent in prison were, he said, "terrible".

During the brief hearing yesterday, George Peacock, his solicitor, said both sides had cause to regret the current impasse. "His parents are concerned for his wellbeing and his future and want him to get some help."

Mr Foraker, who was not in court yesterday, said the whole "episode" with his son had become "a nightmare".



The family home Robert Foraker is banned from

Dismissed university chief to sue

By PAUL WILKINSON

A FORMER university principal who resigned after a number of his academic qualifications were discovered to be false yesterday announced that he is to sue for unfair dismissal.

The Rev Dr Duane Wade-Hampton Arnold, who resigned last January from St Chad's College in Durham after discrepancies were disclosed in his published list of academic qualifications, is going to an industrial tribunal over his belief that he was forced out by a whispering campaign. His wife, Janet, who was employed as the university's director of development, has also lodged a claim with the tribunal.

However, the college, an independent foundation within the university, controlled by the Church of England, has filed a counter-claim, demanding the return of money allegedly spent without authority by Dr Arnold during his brief tenure of the principal's post.

Dr Arnold, 44, became instantly controversial on his appointment in 1994 to the post when a number of senior staff left soon after his arrival.

Let paralysed bowler settle here, says MP

By JOHN GOODBODY, SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

AN MP is backing the attempt of Winston Davis, the former West Indies cricketer, to be re-admitted to Britain after he became paralysed from the neck down when he fell from a mango tree.

David Lock, the Labour MP for Wyre Forest, is asking the Government to waive rules

which could prevent Mr Davis, 39, who played professional cricket here for 15 years, from living in Bewdley, near Worcester, with his British wife, Patricia, 38, and their five-year-old daughter, Jessica. Mr Davis, who represented Glamorgan and Northamptonshire for nine seasons and played professional league cricket, has applied for entry at the British High Commission in New York.

This would usually be refused because Mr Davis would depend on support from the NHS. Since the accident on November 1, Davis has been in hospital in St Vincent and then in Miami, where his medical bills are nearly £400,000.

The former fast-bowler, who played in 15 Tests and 35 one-day internationals in the

all-conquering West Indies teams of the 1980s, fell from the tree when he was carrying out voluntary land-clearing work on a site where a church is being built in Villa, the village in St Vincent where he was born. Mr Davis had climbed into the tree to saw off some branches when he was struck by a falling branch.

He had been planning to leave his with a shipping company next spring, so that he

could live in Britain with his wife, who is a bank clerk. Mr Lock said: "Winston is a quadriplegic and it raises difficult policy decisions because he is somebody who, in the short term, will make demands on the NHS. But I am sure that, in the long term, he will be a net contributor to UK society."

Winston spent 15 years providing great entertainment and paying tax and national insurance. If he is not allowed treatment here, he will not get it anywhere and the family will never be together. Such treatment does not exist in the Caribbean, and it's unbelievably expensive in America."

His wife said: "Doctors have told me it's the type of injury suffered by Christopher Reeve [the actor who played Superman]. The last couple of weeks his spirits have gone a little. But he is a positive person. On his good days Winston says 'I'm going to walk out of this hospital'; this is the spirit I want him to keep."

She hopes that he will be able to resume his career as a cricket commentator.

Cricket, page 37

OED fights the negaholics

Philip Delves Broughton on words that may not pass the test of time

THE English language is under siege. At its gates are marketing men brandishing new words and phrases including "adolescent", "blufragette", "negaholic" and "virtual desk".

Fortunately, the compilers of the Oxford English Dictionary, who have catalogued the year's new words and phrases, reckon that few of them will stand the test of time.

As long as they are around, however, it may be worth knowing that an "adolescent" is someone between 13 and 18, addicted to youth culture, a "blufragette" is a woman with pre-feminist role models, and a "negaholic" someone with a face like a week of rain and an attitude to match. "Virtual desk" describes those who use the Internet to work from home. A "shaggist" is someone who looks

at a computer and thinks "life's too short", rather like an "Internet". The computer-addicted teenager is deemed to be a "screenager".

The Labour Party has much to answer for. The terms "on message" and "off message", to describe whether or not someone is toeing the party line, were popularised during the election, as was the word "prebatial", denying an accusation before it is even made, though someone clearly forgot to fill in Geoffrey Robinson on its use.

Labour is also guilty of the politicisation of the words "new", as in "new Labour", "new Britain", and "people's", as in the "people's Princess", and a "people's banquet" on the Queen's birthday.

Among the other new phrases of 1997, to "Gordon Brown" is to wear a "shrugist" is someone who looks

lounge suit when more formal attire is requested. "Economy Class Syndrome" is the development of a blood clot on the back of the thigh from spending too much time in cheap aeroplane seats, and the "Sandwich Generation" are those who find themselves looking after ageing relatives and young children at the same time.

Michael Proffitt, of the OED, says: "We look to see which ones have endured the test of time and most do not. They have to show evidence of passing into the language more permanently. Many of them are short-term marketing expressions."

It would be a depressing day if scholars a hundred years on opened the dictionary, and between "teletransport" and "teletype" found the word "Telebimby".



Robert Foraker leaves court yesterday after being sentenced to further probation

Bomber adds real hazard to golfers' 14th green

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE par-four 14th at Skipton Golf Club has more hazards than most. Normally, bunkers and the Ellerbeck stream close to the green on the 343-yard hole are the only obstacles members have to face, but recently players have had to face the prospect of an unknown bomber cratering the green.

In the past year the 14th has been damaged more than ten times with a device similar to warning detonators used on the railway. Each blast leaves a deep divot which needs careful refilling, seeding and rolling.

Gary Potter, the course manager at the 103-year-old North Yorkshire club, said: "Whether it's an ex-member who has been dismissed or someone who has been refused membership, I don't know. Whatever they use, it blows a hole about six inches deep into our green and there is always grass everywhere. If something is not done, we're worried that the situation could get worse with more greens being targeted."

"We always find traces of a detonator-type device left lying around, along with tapers. It is really baffling. If the situation continues then the club will be looking into the possibility of installing cameras."

"The first incident was in May and then there were two or three in June and another three in July and just one in August. Then we had nothing until the other week. We went out on to the 14th and there was the big hole."

"We wondered if it was a disgruntled employee or someone fed up with getting high scores on the 14th, but we think it's more likely to be young lads."

Inspector Chris Chelton of Skipton police admitted they were baffled. Police agree youngsters are probably responsible, but they accept the bomber could be someone with a grudge.

The incident does have a silver lining, however. Mr Potter said: "It has cured the mole problem down there. They must be terrified."



Murder fears grow after fire suicide

By SIMON DE BRUNELLES

FEARS are growing for a young mother whose boyfriend blew himself up in an apparent suicide.

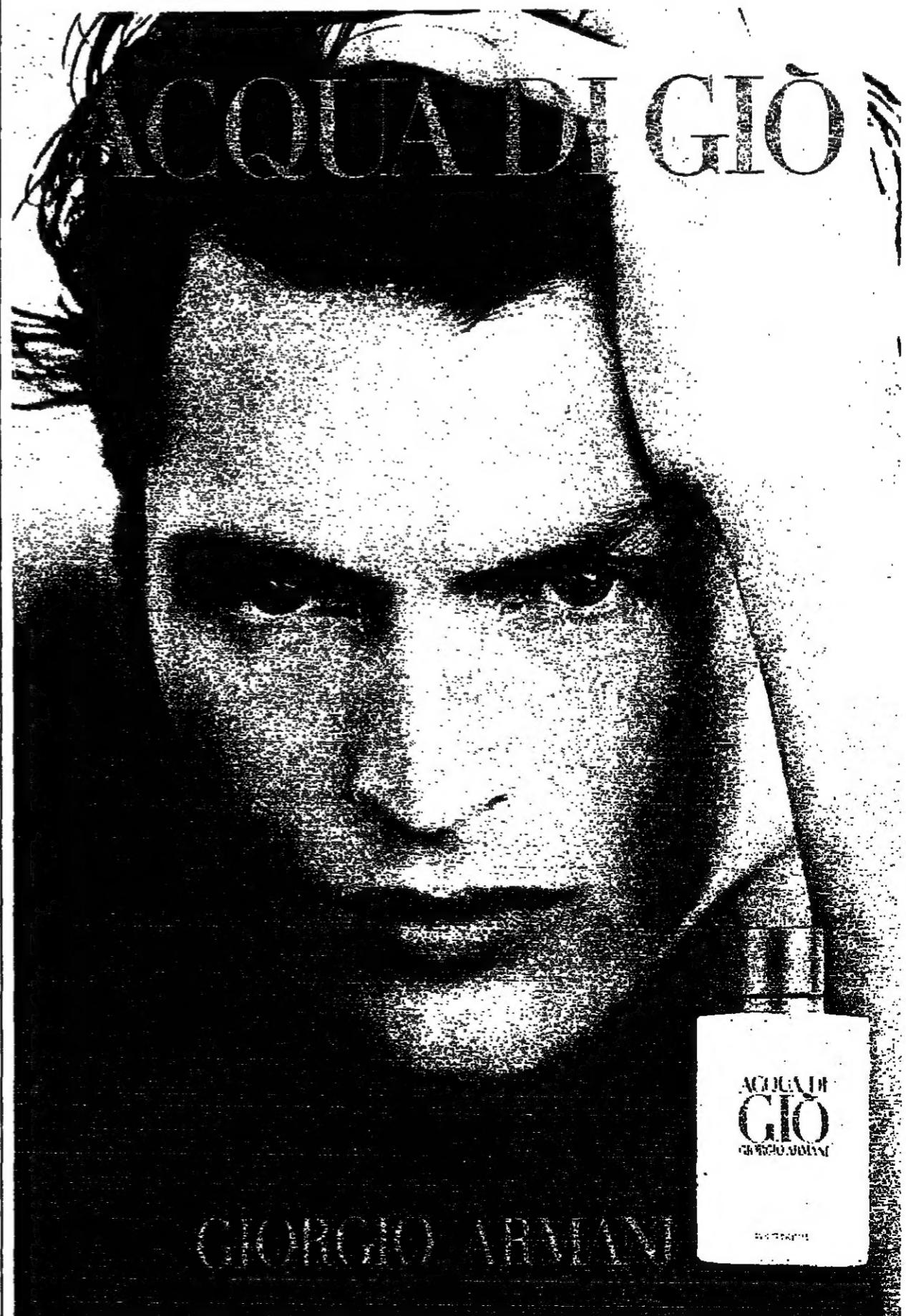
Helen Proffit, 29, a social worker, disappeared a week ago, after going to a Christmas dance with Mark Coldrick, whose body was found dead beside his burnt-out car in a quarry two days later. When police went to his home in Newport, Gwent, they found the house empty and the couple's bedroom heavily blood-stained.

A search has failed to find any trace of Mrs Proffit, a divorced mother of two who was a popular youth worker in Newport. Police divers are searching a pool at Ifon Quarry, near Caldicot, where Mr Coldrick killed himself with a petrol bomb.

Detectives fear Mrs Proffit might have died in a violent row after they returned home last Tuesday night. They believe Mr Coldrick, 30, an aircraft engineer, might have disposed of her body at the quarry before returning to the same spot to take his own life.

Mr Coldrick left his wife, also called Helen, and their two-year-old son to move in with his lover ten weeks ago. Neighbours say the pair had a volatile relationship.

Detective Superintendent Des James said: "There was a massive amount of blood in the rear bedroom, on the walls and on the furniture, which suggests that someone was violently injured. If any of their friends or relatives know anything we want them to come forward."



ACQUA DI GIO
GIORGIO ARMANI

Glitch in computer delays speech

By ANDREW PIERCE

THE long-awaited statement on BSE was delayed embarrassingly because of a computer failure in the private office of Dr Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister.

The Speaker, Betty Boothroyd, suspended the sitting for 15 minutes because of the breakdown. It was thought to be the first time in parliamentary history that such an important statement was delayed because of a technical hitch.

By convention the Opposition front bench is given 15 minutes to study the text of an important statement with the exception of the Budget. But the only copy of the statement was contained in the Windows computer system in Dr Cunningham's office which collapsed at 3pm, making it impossible to comply with the usual practice.

Hill farmer in front line of the beef crisis

A whole British way of life is under threat as new subsidy cuts and the strong pound spell the end of the hill men, reports Michael Hornsby

HILL farmers are on the front line of the crisis in the beef industry and large tracts of the most beautiful upland regions of Britain would cease to be farmed if they were exposed to the full rigours of the market-place.

Some 71,000 farmers in the hills, almost entirely reliant on the rearing of cattle and sheep, depend largely for their survival on subsidies provided by the Government and the European Union which Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister, said yesterday must eventually be scaled down.

Richard Barter, who keeps 110 Hereford-cross beef cows and 300 ewes on 297 acres near Bovey Tracey on the edge of Dartmoor, is a fairly typical victim of the Government's policies.

In his early forties, he runs the farm with his wife, Jane, who also has to look after their three young boys, aged five, eight and ten. When their last farm hand left in October 1996, they decided not to replace him. Mr Barter said: "The one-off aid Dr Cunningham has announced will bring welcome short-term relief. We reckon it will mean an extra payment of £47 per cow, which will certainly ease the cash flow. But our long-term problems remain."

Mr Barter reckons his farm generated an income of about £15,000 last year, but this year that could fall to between £7,000 and £8,000, in line with a national decline in farm incomes of up to 47 per cent forecast by the Ministry of Agriculture. "My accountant has already told us that we will not have to pay any income tax this year because our earnings will be too low," he said. "There are lots worse off than me. At least I do not have an overdraft." He and

his wife specialise in rearing steers to the age of about 20 months and then selling them on to other farmers. They sold their most recent batch of 10 steers four weeks ago, accepting a price that was £200 a head lower than similar animals fetched a year ago.

Mr Barter's problem, like many farming in what the bureaucrats call "less favoured areas", is that up to half his income, even in a good year, comes from subsidy rather than the price his produce fetches.

"If the subsidy went, there is no way we could survive, at least as full-time farmers. At best I might be able to hang on by taking a job outside farming and running the farm

part-time." He and others like him are kept afloat by a whole range of payments.

There are suckler cow premiums (paid per cow), beef special premiums (paid on male calves), sheep annual premiums (paid per ewe) and hill livestock compensatory amounts, a special top-up available only to those in the hills. The strong pound not only makes imported beef and lamb cheaper and more competitive, forcing down local prices.

It also, crucially, reduces the sterling value of EU subsidies, which are fixed in ecus, and have to be converted into national money.

Over the past two years, because of the strong pound, Mr Barter has seen the value of the suckler cow premium drop from £124 to about £114, although this will now be increased by the special one-off aid to about £160. The beef special premium has come down from £93 to about £84, and the sheep annual premium has nearly halved, from just over £21 in 1995 to £11.50.

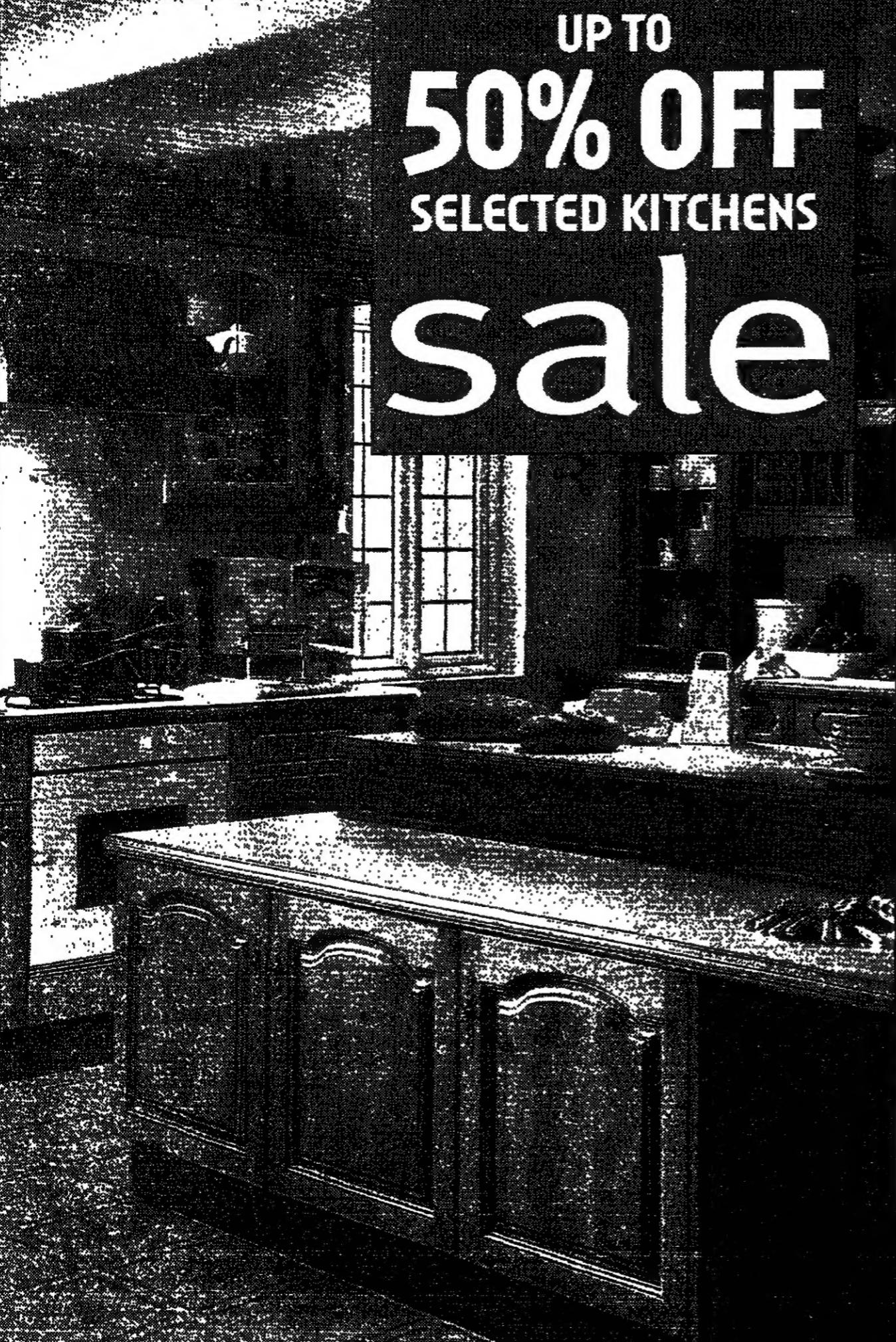


Hill farmer Richard Barter, who says he may be forced to take an outside job

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Moderniser will bring a sure touch

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

WHATEVER the outcome of the inquiry into BSE announced yesterday by the Government, Lord Justice Phillips is likely to handle it with the same deftness of touch that won him plaudits for his handling of the Maxwell trial.

Mr Justice Phillips — by then nicknamed the "Rolls-Royce" judge — was promoted mid-way through the trial to the Court of Appeal.

Likeable and witty, Nicholas Phillips is a moderniser. He introduced a series of innovations to make proceedings in the Maxwell trial as manageable and comprehensible to jurors as possible. Despite the furore over the acquittals of the brothers, the judge was widely held to have created a blueprint for the way to run such trials in future. Richard Lissack, QC, one of the leading prosecuting counsel, said at the time: "He has been the single greatest influence on the trial. His conduct has been faultless." Mr Lissack singled out the judge's "temperament, his patience and attention to detail" coupled with his "fairness to everyone: counsel, defendants, witnesses, the jury, the press".

Lord Justice Phillips, who drew praise also for his handling of the Barlow Clowes trial in 1991, has long a "hands-on" style of judge who takes as grip of the proceedings — a role judges will be expected to adopt when the civil justice reforms proposed by Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, are implemented. The

judge broke new ground by introducing a new court day of 9.30am to 1.30pm, with afternoons reserved for legal argument. Jurors did not have to concentrate all day and were saved from having to keep going in and out of court while counsel discussed legal points in their absence.

He also provided the jury with a summary of his summing-up, and — as a new technology buff — ensured full use of the computer system in court. The defendant sat, American style, alongside their lawyers.

He attended Bryanston School and King's College, Cambridge, before national service in the Royal Navy. Once called to the Bar, in 1962 he built up a shipping and admiralty practice, taking silk in 1978. He became a judge in 1987.



Lord Justice Phillips: likeable and witty

BSE IN BRITAIN

- 1985 — April: Vet called to a farm in Kent to examine cow behaving oddly. Later recognised as probably first case of BSE.
- 1986 — Nov: Government scientists make first official diagnosis of BSE.
- 1987 — June: Ministers told about existence of BSE. Experiments to test transmissibility of disease to mice are started. Oct: *Veterinary Record* reports appearance of BSE in four cattle herds, the first public reference to the disease. Dec: Epidemiologists say cattle feed containing remains of sheep infected with scrapie most likely cause of BSE.
- 1988 — April: Working party set up under Professor Sir Richard Southwood of Oxford University to report to Government on BSE implications. July: Ban on feeding cattle or sheep with meat-and-bone meal derived from the same animals. Aug: Government orders slaughter and destruction of all cattle showing symptoms of BSE. Farmers compensated at 50 per cent of market value (later raised to 100 per cent).
- 1989 — Feb: Southwood report published. Says BSE risk to humans "remote" but cannot be ruled out. Estimates eventual number of cattle deaths at between 17,000 and 25,000. Dec: Ban on consumption of brain, spinal cord and other specified offals introduced.
- 1990 — Jan: Offal ban extended to Scotland.
- 1991 — Mar: European Commission bans exports to the Continent of British cattle over six months old. April: European Commission bans export from Britain of specified offals. May: First case of spongiform encephalopathy reported in a cat. Pet food made from BSE-infected offal later confirmed as cause. Sept: Specified offals banned from all animal feed.
- 1992 — Peak year for BSE in cattle, with 36,682 confirmed cases.
- 1993 — July: Total cattle deaths from BSE reach 100,000.
- 1994 — Nov: Thymus and intestines added to list of specified offals. All mammalian protein banned from cattle and sheep.
- 1995: First three human deaths from new-variant CJD.
- 1996 — March: Government announces that "most likely explanation" for new-variant CJD was "exposure to BSE before the offal ban in 1989". Beef prices plummet. EU bans all British beef exports, a trade worth £520 million a year. Number of deaths from new-variant CJD reach 13 by end of year. July: Government announces stricter controls on slaughter of sheep after scientists report "theoretical risk" that BSE might have passed to sheep and be disguised as scrapie.
- 1997 — May: Incoming Labour Government says it hopes to ease beef export ban by less confrontational approach with rest of EU. Ban still in place at end of year. Dec: Jack Cunningham, Agriculture Minister, bans beef on the bone after scientists find infectivity in nervous tissue in spinal columns of BSE-infected cattle and possibly also in bone marrow.

THE TIMES TUESDAY DECEMBER 23 1997

HOME NEWS 5

Girls complain after teachers go to strip show

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A CHRISTMAS outing by boarding school mistresses to see a male strip show has shaken the Victorian foundations of one of the country's leading girls' schools.

Some of the girls at £12,000-a-year Godolphin School in Salisbury have complained after hearing that a dozen staff had gone to see the Chippendales.

One pupil at the 270-year-old school, whose old girls include the novelist Jilly Cooper, said: "You can imagine the reaction if this was a boys' school, where housemasters went to a strip show. The parents won't like this at all, nor do the girls."

However, the old girls contacted by *The Times* did not appear too shocked. Delphine Duder, an 80-year-old committee member of the Old Godolphin Association, who attended the school from 1929-35, said it was quite wrong for girls to try into staff affairs. She said: "We were all in one of the staff, naturally, in those days one was. I still think that what they do has nothing to do with the girls."

Jacqui Lang, president of the Girls' Schools Association,

said the teachers were perfectly entitled to their celebration after the end of term. She said: "Everybody's been to see *The Full Monty*, haven't they? I would have thought it was pretty harmless stuff and it is just supposed to be a laugh. I don't think children should be encouraged to contact the media for this kind of thing. If the teachers had left the girls it would be a different matter, but once term has finished I think it is up to staff to spend their leisure time."

Godolphin prides itself on an exemplary academic reputation and came top of the GCSE table in Wiltshire this year. The 430-pupil school — motto *Fran Ha Leal Eto Ge (Frankness and Loyalty Be Yours)* — was founded in 1726 and moved to its present Victorian and modern buildings in 1891. It is also well-regarded for the strength of its theatrical productions and recently opened a purpose-built performing arts centre.

Judy Nathan, the school's spokeswoman, dismissed complaints about the teachers' behaviour as "mischief-making". She said the outing was during the school holidays last Thursday and did not involve any of the pupils. There would be no disciplinary action against any of those involved.

Mrs Nathan added: "Twelve female members of staff attended the performance. It is a perfectly harmless show for anyone to go and see. It was a perfectly respectable evening. It took place during the holidays and in their own time."

Carl Leighton-Pope, who runs the Chippendales, said the show was aimed at all women and sometimes three generations, grandmother, mother and daughter, would be in the audience. The 20-strong troupe of singers and dancers who make up the

A Chippendale: "all in the best possible taste"

Delia Smith buys a slice of Norwich City

By PHILIP DELVES BROUGHTON

WHILE the rest of the country turns to her Christmas recipes, Delia Smith has given herself a non-culinary treat: a plump shareholding in Norwich City Football Club.

She and her husband, Michael Wynn Jones, a publisher, have bought 42 per cent of the shares in the club, reckoned to have cost about £700,000. No more queuing for season tickets for them.

The couple, who live near Stowmarket in Suffolk, became owners of Norwich City in November 1996 after they left the club £1 million, the amount on which was to be used for special club projects.

Since then, Ms Smith, whose cookery books and various offshoots have made her one of the wealthiest women in the country, has introduced the players to high-carbohydrate and low-fat breakfasts before training and more of the same afterwards. She has also provided them with recipes for baked tomato risotto, Irish tea bread, and carrot cakes to make and eat at home. Her own diet surrounding matches is not so virtuous: fish and chips on Saturdays, McDonald's midweek.

"It is extremely exciting and gives us an awful lot of pleasure," said Ms Smith yesterday of her buy. "We are supporters and season ticket-holders and in the last year we have had a chance to see what happens behind the scenes. If you showed me a profit and

balance sheet, I wouldn't now which way up to hold it — but I have other gifts."

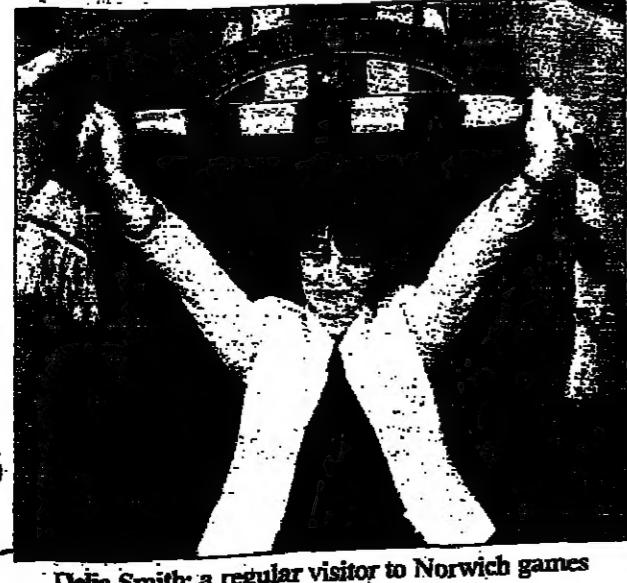
It was Mr Wynn Jones, the editor of *Sainsbury's Magazine* and a supporter of the Canaries from the age of 11, who introduced Mrs Smith to Norwich City. Her football fever began with England's 1966 World Cup win but support for Norwich gave her a more day-to-day focus. The couple have been regular visitors to Norwich games both home and away for nearly 20 years.

They bought their shares from Geoffrey Watling, 84, but have no interest in ousting the present chairman, Barry Lockwood. "We are not going to go in with all guns blazing, and nothing like that is on the agenda," Mr Wynn Jones said. Their plan is to boost the club's annual revenues by £1 million through additional catering, sponsorship and commercial activities.

On the footballing side, there is delight. Mike Walker, the club manager, said: "It is a very pleasant surprise and stabilises the club. They have been successful in business and if they want to bring that success to the football club, it's got to be brilliant."

For Ms Smith, the purchase is more than a financial transaction. "I think everyone wants to give the talents they have," she says. "It is very nice when you reach middle age and you can go in another direction."

FINLAY KEMPTON



Delia Smith: a regular visitor to Norwich games

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Family whose numbers came up

By PAUL WHITTAKER

A FAMILY has beaten odds of a million to one with a sequence of birthdays. The birth of Emily on the 12th day of the 12th month at 12 minutes past 12 noon has completed a string of extraordinary coincidences for the Beard family of Gosport, Hampshire.

Emily's father, David, was born on the 4th day of the 4th month at 4.40pm, her mother, Helen, entered the world on the 10th of the 10th, her brother Harry on the 6th of the 6th, and her maternal grandmother, Sylvia, arrived on the 11th of the 11th.

The sequence has been rated a million-to-one chance by Ladbrokes. Mr Beard, a heating engineer, said: "Emily was supposed to be born at 10am. But there were complications so they put the birth back."

"When I rang my mum to tell her, she said I'd been born at 4.40. That's when we realised how weird it was."



Against the odds: Helen Beard with her husband David and mother Sylvia, and children Harry and Emily

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Scargill 'guilty of misconduct' over £800,000 cash transfer

BY MARK HENDERSON

ARTHUR SCARGILL is set to be disqualified as a trustee of two miners' welfare organisations after the Charity Commission yesterday found him guilty of misconduct over a £800,000 cash transfer.

The president of the National Union of Mineworkers will be removed as a trustee of the Yorkshire Miners' Welfare Trust Fund and the Yorkshire Miners' Welfare Convalescent Homes if he fails to respond adequately to the findings of a year-long investigation into a cash transfer between the two charities, which censured him and the NUM vice-president, Frank Cave.

Mr Scargill and Mr Cave were found to have moved the money from the trust fund to the convalescent homes during iniquitous meetings and in breach of correct procedures for approving such grants. They are alleged to have pressed the transfer to prevent the money being used for miners' welfare projects run in conjunction with employers.

They have until the end of January to make representations to the commission to contest the findings, and have begun a High Court action against their proposed disqualification, which will be heard in April.

The commission launched the inquiry in January after complaints from other trustees, thought to be British Coal appointments to the board, that Mr Scargill and Mr Cave



Scargill: he has begun action in High Court

had broken rules to force through the transfer. The NUM officials were suspended as trustees in June.

The commissioners said yesterday that, after the investigation, they were "satisfied that there has been misconduct and mismanagement in the administration of the charities and that it was necessary or desirable to remove Mr Scargill and Mr Cave from their trusteeship".

The transfer prevented money from the miners' trust fund being used for welfare projects that are "partnership-funded" with employers under rules introduced after the privatisation of the coal industry in 1995. The NUM opposes partnership funding, which it says demands unfair contributions from miners and should be wholly funded by employ-

ers and the state. In May 1995, the trustees of the charities took a unanimous decision not to take part in the scheme in the "best interests" of Yorkshire miners, according to Mr Scargill.

The trust fund was established in 1984 to "promote the health, social well-being and condition of living" of current and former miners. The convalescent homes charity, which runs two homes near Scarborough, was set up in 1966. Mr Scargill and Mr Cave were also criticised by the commission over one of the Scarborough homes, which had "improperly" refused places to former miners who had not continued to pay union dues after they were made redundant.

The commission did not suggest that Mr Scargill or Mr Cave had sought to benefit personally from the transfer, but found that they had taken decisions at meetings attended by too few trustees and had failed to follow procedures for approving such grants between charities.

The NUM said in a statement yesterday: "The national executive pledges full support for Arthur Scargill and condemns the outrageous decision to first suspend and now remove the NUM president as trustee."

Mr Scargill said yesterday: "The union's lawyers have issued court proceedings against the Charity Commissioners and demanded that both Frank Cave and I be reinstated as trustees."



John Gowar, the plastic surgeon who treated two-year-old Harry Sherwood, with his young patient yesterday

Shark skin cure for the boy who fell on a fire

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

A BOY of two, who was badly burnt after falling on to a gas fire, has a shark to thank for his restored skin.

His surgeon, John Gowar, of Birmingham Selly Oak Hospital, used an American material called Integra to repair the 31 per cent burns on Harry Sherwood's body. It is made from a mixture of calf tendon, a rich source of the protein collagen, and shark cartilage, which encourages the wounded tissue to grow again.

Mr Gowar has used the material before, as have other British surgeons, but he is especially pleased with the results of Harry's operation. He used £2,500 worth of the artificial skin, made in New Jersey, to repair burns on Harry's back, chest, arms and bottom.

Harry's mother, Donna, of Walsall, said: "I've been amazed how normal Harry's skin looks. It's just a little bit lumpy, but Mr Gowar expects that to settle down fairly quickly. He will still need to go back to hospital for dressings for quite a while yet, but at least he enjoys the train journeys."

Integra mimics skin with its two layers—an upper layer of silicone, which copies the epidermis, and a lower one or dermis, made up of bovine collagen and shark cartilage. When laid on top of burnt tissue, the collagen is digested and a new layer of dermis produced.

After a couple of weeks the silicone layer is removed and a layer of the patient's own epidermis seeded on to the surface. This grows into a new skin with little scarring, if all goes well.

Defence ministers clear the Eurofighter for £40bn take-off



The Eurofighter on the ground: it is designed to beat rivals in "close encounters of the worst kind"

BY MICHAEL EVANS

THE Eurofighter aircraft, designed to beat its rivals in "close encounters of the worst kind", cleared the final political hurdle yesterday when four defence ministers signed an agreement for the full production phase of the £40 billion programme.

After years of political wrangling, mainly between Germany and its three other partners, Britain, Italy and Spain, over price rises and the increasing sophistication of the multi-role combat jet, the signing in Bonn will safeguard 80,000 jobs in Britain and provide the RAF with an aircraft to replace the Jaguar and Tornado air defence fighter.

George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, who signed a memoran-

dum of understanding with his three European counterparts for the plane's production and in-service support phases of the programme, said: "This is a historic event which commits us to the future of the Eurofighter programme. It is also a vital step towards providing the air forces of our four nations with the aircraft they need to respond to the uncertain challenges ahead."

Responding to critics of Eurofighter, which will cost British taxpayers about £16 billion—the Ministry of Defence's most expensive procurement contract—Mr Robertson said: "Our studies have shown conclusively that Eurofighter is the best available combat aircraft for the UK in the post-Cold War world."

He added: "The four-nation pro-

gramme will ensure that the European aerospace industry remains at the forefront of technology. It could also prove a catalyst for the industrial restructuring that is essential if Europe is to remain competitive in the world defence market."

Next June, the Eurofighter consortium, consisting of British Aerospace, Dasa of Germany, Casa of Spain and Alenia of Italy, will sign a production contract with the four governments to build 232 of the aircraft for the RAF, 180 for the Luftwaffe, 121 for the Italian air force and 87 for the Spanish.

Deliveries to the RAF are scheduled to begin in June 2002 and run on until 2014. British industry is primarily involved in construction of the front end of the jet, the cockpit, the

front canard wings, part of the main wings, the new EJ200 engines and much of the avionics, including the advanced new radar.

About 200 British companies, including GEC-Marconi, Dowty, Lucas, Martin Baker and Smiths Industries, are involved in the development of a range of equipment.

The aircraft will be assembled at British Aerospace sites in Lancashire from components manufactured by companies in the four partner nations. Rolls-Royce will manufacture the engines, primarily at plants in Bristol and Derby.

British Aerospace claims that only the American F22 Raptor, currently in development and estimated to cost twice as much as Eurofighter, will be able to out-maneuver the Euro-

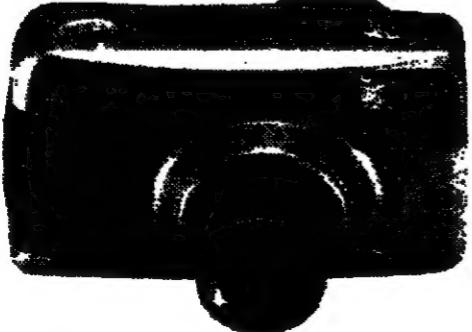
fighter in the next generation of aircraft.

The MoD said the F22 would not be a good purchase because it would cost an extra £8 billion for just an eight per cent improvement in performance.

A spokesman for BAe said: "Critics have claimed that Eurofighter has not been designed with stealth technology, because it doesn't look like the American F117 Stealth fighter."

"But if it had been designed to look like the stealth fighter it wouldn't be able to operate as an air superiority aircraft. Eurofighter was designed to win dogfights and to be able to fly very tight turns and to escape at supersonic speeds without afterburners, and that's as stealthy as it needs to be."

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Union seeks an answer to lack of teachers

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

THE biggest teaching union is joining forces with Government advisers to try to settle the arguments over what is putting graduates off joining the profession.

The unions have argued that low pay, stress and constant criticism from politicians and the media are responsible for poor recruitment and retention. Ministers insist that they balance pressure with support for teachers and that pay compares well with other countries.

Now the National Union of Teachers is mounting joint research with the Teacher Training Agency to find the real influences on students. More than 3,000 final-year students have been asked their view of teaching as a career.

A select committee of MPs has expressed concern about the feasibility of meeting the Government's class size targets and maintaining quality in a range of shortage subjects unless more candidates can be attracted into the profession. The TTA has already launched a £10 million campaign to sell the profession to graduates with cinema advertising featuring Tony Blair and celebrities from the arts and sport.

Recruitment to teacher training has declined sharply since the economy began to recover and more opportunities opened up for graduates. Postgraduate courses had attracted only 13,500 applications by the beginning of December, compared with

15,172 a year earlier. The four-year first-degree Bachelor of Education is also showing an 8 per cent drop in applications.

Pupil numbers will continue to rise until at least 2002. Although the targets for recruitment to training courses were raised this month, the NUT doubts that enough graduates will join unless conditions in schools improve.

Doug McAvoy, the union's general secretary, said: "The Government insists that its aim is to see ever-improving performance in schools. But this cannot be achieved without a significant increase in the numbers of teachers recruited from among the brightest and best in our schools and higher education establishments."

This survey will help the TTA and the NUT to counter obstacles to recruitment identified by the young people we most need to attract."

□ David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, announced a £59 million boost in funding for education authorities to meet ambitious literacy targets yesterday. The Government has committed itself to ensuring that four out of five 11-year-olds reach their expected reading age by 2002. The first allocations from the Government's £500 million standards fund were made to coincide with the second reading of the School Standards and Framework Bill. Mr Blunkett said: "A firm grasp of the basics is vital for every child."



How Manchester city centre's new bridge will look. The IRA blew up the old one

Bombed city will have bridge to the future

By RUSSELL JENKINS

A GLASS BRIDGE of futuristic design is to span a street in Manchester city centre on the spot where the IRA exploded last year, as a symbol of the city's recovery after the shopping and office centre was ripped apart.

The tubular bridge, which replaces the damaged original, will span Corporation Street, linking the world's largest Marks and Spencer store with the Arndale Centre, it was announced yesterday.

Manchester Millennium Ltd, which is overseeing the £1 billion rebuilding programme for the city centre, chose the design, an hour-glass-shaped spiral of steel and glass, from four final submissions. Its creators claim it as a world first.

Shoppers will be able to

walk along a timber path through the largely transparent tube. The design was put together by architects Hodder Associates and the structural engineers Ove Arup.

Patrick Kearny, chairman of Manchester City Council's city centre committee, said: "The bridge will provide a dramatic experience for people either using or passing under it and is a safe and exciting link between two of the most popular shopping centres in town."

Stephen Hodder, of Stephen Hodder Associates, said: "The image of the ruined bridge was one of the most vivid following the bombing. I feel that the reinforced statement of the bridge may be seen as a symbol of the city centre's recovery."

Publication of the design

came on the same day as Prudential confirmed that terms had been agreed with P&O for the acquisition of the Arndale Centre for more than £300 million.

A design team has been appointed to create Exchange Square, a new public space, as part of the rebuilding programme. Martha Schwartz Inc, based in Massachusetts, has been awarded the commission to create a "superior and vital new public square".

Martha Schwartz, a landscape gardener behind large-scale urban projects in New York City and Minneapolis.

The detailed designs for Manchester are to be submitted to the city council's city centre committee in March.

Shark skin
cure for
the boy
who fell
on a fire

THE TIMES TUESDAY DECEMBER 23 1997

HOME NEWS 7

Heart and lung boy, 10, dies in mother's arms

By PAUL WILKINSON



Mick Hollis said his son had died peacefully.

BRITAIN'S youngest heart and lung transplant patient has died more than seven years after his pioneering operation.

Ten-year-old Stephen Hollis, an only child, died peacefully in the arms of his mother, Sonia, on Sunday night. His donated heart and lungs were still working well at the end, but his kidneys had failed, probably from the side-effects of the drugs he took to combat rejection of the transplant.

Yesterday his father, Mick Hollis, said: "We have had seven years with Stephen we might not have expected without the transplant. We have some beautiful memories that no one can take away."

"It couldn't have happened at a worse time of year. Stephen always loved Christmas and this one is going to be empty without him. But he exceeded all expectations. I am glad he has passed away so peacefully. We have so many beautiful memories that we wouldn't have had without the transplant, and we will treasure them."

"He died peacefully in bed at home. We have known for a while that we have been on borrowed time. There has been a slow deterioration and we have watched him go through some bad times over the past 12 months."

"We knew it was coming, but we always just hoped that this wouldn't happen yet. We rushed him into hospital last

Monday but, by Wednesday night, his condition had declined so much that they told us there was nothing more they could do and we should take him home.

"Over the years he has had to be on a strict diet. But when we left the hospital, the doctors told us to forget it and let him have what he wanted. On the way home we called at a chip shop and he had his first fish and chips for two years. In the final few days he has been eating bars of chocolate and crisps which he hadn't been able to have."

Stephen, from Horbury, near Wakefield, West Yorkshire, was born with lungs a quarter of the normal size and his parents were told that his only hope of survival was a heart and lung transplant. They waited ten months for a

surgeon before the operation could take place at Killingbeck Hospital in Leeds, on April 28, 1990. At the time, Stephen was just over three years old.

Only two days later he was tucking into chips and yoghurt and amazing doctors by the speed of his recovery. He went home a month after the operation.

At first doctors put him on eight different drugs which his parents had to administer nine times a day. As time passed, the number of drugs was reduced, but he still faced a daily mixture. Mr Hollis, 42, a van driver, said: "The side-effects finally got to him."

He said that, despite his condition, Stephen had been able to start school with other children of his age and joined in playground games. Until the final few months, he had lived life to the full.

But the nature of his pioneering operation meant there was always a question mark about his long-term future and his parents continued to make the most of the fun he had.

Yesterday Duncan Walker, the surgeon who carried out the transplant, said: "I am very sorry to hear of Stephen's death. It is very sad news. The drugs that transplant patients have to take can be very toxic."

"I feel for his parents who have to be very dedicated to make sure the children take all the medication they have to..."

Stephen was a real live-wire. My thoughts are with his mother and father."



Stephen Hollis was born with lungs a quarter of the normal size. He had a transplant operation seven years ago.

Father to sue hospitals over kidney transplant failure

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A FATHER who donated a kidney to save his son plans to sue the hospital trust that carried out the transplant.

The operation did not succeed, after what Albert Young will claim was negligence by the Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust. Mr Young, who is in his 60s, says that the trust's hospitals failed to identify

that his kidney had more than one artery leading to it, which makes the operation more difficult.

He volunteered to give a kidney to his son, Paul, in March 1995. Operations involving live donors have become much more common in recent years, as there are never sufficient kidneys to meet the demand for transplants. Both underwent tests and treatment at St Mary's Hospital, Portsmouth, and

Queen Alexandra Hospital, in nearby Cosham, until the transplant operation in November that year.

His solicitor, Andrew Thompson, has now served a High Court writ to obtain medical records connected with the operation.

He is trying to prove that the kidney was removed without doctors performing adequate tests to determine Mr Young's suitability

as a kidney donor for his son.

Mr Thompson, of the London-based firm Bolt Burdon, which specialises in cases of alleged medical negligence, said that he was not aware of another case in which an organ donor had taken legal action against a hospital trust. He believed that any damages award would be likely to exceed £100,000.

"What we are saying is that the

extraction should never have taken place," Mr Thompson said.

Mr Young, who refused to comment, now has only one kidney, but is back at work. He is planning to sue for the pain, loss, injury and damage he says he suffered as a result of the operation.

His son, who is still alive, was also unavailable for comment.

A spokeswoman for Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust said she was

aware of the impending legal action. "Beyond that we cannot comment," she said.

At Guy's and St Thomas's Hospital Trust in London, where many kidney transplant techniques have been pioneered, a spokeswoman said multi-vessel operations were rarely carried out on live donors.

"There is a different approach to the operation and it is more difficult," she added.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Stalker dead after assault in street

A stalker freed from custody on Friday, on condition that he stay out of Inverness, died after apparently being attacked in the town hours later. Michael Mackintosh, 60, is believed to have suffered serious head injuries and died in hospital in Aberdeen on Sunday. He had admitted to court that he had persistently followed and harassed a named woman, and was ordered not to approach or communicate with her.

Crash injuries

A 26-year-old student and her boyfriend were seriously injured after a sports car stolen from the wife of the comedian Harry Enfield last month collided with their car near Buckingham Palace. A 21-year-old man has been charged.

Chase charge

A man appeared before magistrates in Bolton charged with manslaughter and criminal damage after a taxi driver was killed by a car when he was chased on to a road. Dean Kirkman, 20, from Bolton, was granted bail.

Ex-agent cleared

Bernard Carr, 44, a Hartlepool councillor and former election agent of Peter Mandelson, was cleared of gross indecency after the Crown Prosecution Service asked local magistrates to discontinue the case.

Blind tasting

Britain's first audible restaurant menu service has been launched. Via Vita and Brown's have joined the scheme, in which blind customers are handed portable cassette players and a tape of the day's menu.

Chain reaction

Chain-gang style uniforms for Scottish offenders on community service — introduced by Michael Forsyth, the former Scottish Secretary — are to be abolished. Local authorities had complained about the practice being demeaning.

Great offers at Sainsbury's. Well, it is Christmas.

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Furore as McAleese takes rival Host

A conciliatory gesture by the Irish President has angered the Roman Catholic Church, reports Martin Fletcher

MARY McALEESE has become embroiled in the first major controversy of what promises to be a fiery seven-year term as President of Ireland after taking Communion in a Protestant church.

Through this seemingly laudable attempt to "build bridges" to Northern Ireland, the former Belfast law professor has created an unusual dispute between Roman Catholic and Protestant leaders, exposed a widening gulf between the Catholic hierarchy and its increasingly liberal flock, and raised the prospect of an unprecedented showdown between Church and State.

On Sunday Jean Kennedy Smith, the American Ambassador and a member of her country's most prominent Catholic family, joined the controversy by taking Communion in the same place — Dublin's Christ Church Cathedral — where Dr McAleese undertook that simple but highly symbolic act on December 7. Religion was "about bringing people together," Mrs Kennedy Smith said.

It is believed that no Irish President of the Catholic faith has taken Communion in a Protestant church before. As a practising Catholic and former adviser to Catholic bishops, Dr McAleese must have fully understood the implications of her action. She was evidently determined to keep her electoral promise and reach out across Ireland's religious divide. But the backlash has been swift.

Within days the Irish Bishops' Conference declared that, under canon law, it was "not permissible for Roman Catholics to receive Communion in Protestant churches or at Protestant services", and pointedly expressed the hope that "the issue will not arise again".

Desmond Connell, the



President McAleese taking Communion at the Anglican Christ Church Cathedral in Dublin. Her gesture was supported by Jean Kennedy Smith, the US Ambassador, below

Catholic Archbishop of Dublin and a theological purist, then inflamed matters further by suggesting during a radio interview that for a Catholic to take Communion in a Protestant church was a "sham".

Robin Eames, Primate of the Church of Ireland, hit back by saying he deeply regretted that something as sacred as the Eucharist should become the source of division, especially "at a time when Christians of different traditions are earnestly seeking greater understanding and long-standing wounds".

The Church of Ireland welcomed baptised Christians of any tradition who wanted to participate in the Eucharist, he said. "In a world of increasing secularism and a world in which Christianity itself is under attack we ought surely to emphasise our points of

agreement rather than over-emphasising our differences."

Since then there has been a virtual free-for-all, with clergy, theologians and nons weighing in with varying degrees of anger and regret, and Irish newspapers dedicating whole pages to the issue. Dr McAleese alone has remained silent. But then the tide of public opinion seems to be flowing strongly her way.

In a church in Co Cork on Sunday, several parishioners walked out when the priest said that Dr McAleese may have committed a mortal sin. One poll showed nearly 80 per cent supported her. Newspaper letters pages have been equally supportive, as have most editorials.

The Irish Times lamented that the Catholic Church had been "so ungenerous and forthright" in its condemnation.

Desmond Connell, the

Heresy that has roots in centuries of persecution

ROMAN Catholics are instructed from the cradle that to take Communion in a Protestant church is forbidden because Protestant sacraments are considered to be invalid.

The question is still highly emotive for most traditional Catholics, many of whom can recall an era when even to enter a Protestant church was not far short of heresy.

"Mary McAleese has taken Holy Communion in a church whose sacraments the Catholic Church does not recognise as valid or true sacraments in the Catholic sense," said Monsignor William Steele, ecumenical officer for the Catholic diocese of Leeds. "This is the only example I know of where a Catholic Head of State has done this."

The row stems from the Refor-

■ To Anglicans, the bread and wine are symbols; to Catholics they are the body and blood of Christ. Ruth Gledhill reports on a fundamental difference

mation and the question of priestly orders in the Anglican Church. Catholicism after the Reformation was outlawed and a series of draconian penal laws introduced. Everyone was forced to attend their new Anglican parish church each week, and anyone who refused to do so was fined.

Worse still for Catholics, under a series of laws passed from 1571 onwards, any Catholic priest discovered in England was considered to be guilty of treason and subject to the death penalty. The

first to die was Father Cathbert Mayne in 1571.

Gradually, over the centuries, the laws became less strictly enforced, and were finally lifted under Catholic emancipation in the 19th century.

But memories of the sufferings of that time remain embodied in the surviving priests' holes in the homes of wealthy recusants who sheltered them from persecution.

While ecumenism has opened up unprecedented dialogue between Anglicans and Catholics this

century, the row over orders lingers on.

In the immediate aftermath of the Reformation, it centred on whether the Church of England had maintained the apostolic succession in the consecration of its bishops.

There were repeated claims that the vital continuity in the "laying on of hands" from the time of the apostles had been broken with the appointment of Archbishop Matthew Parker by Queen Elizabeth I in 1559.

The Church of that era was split by rumours that, instead of being validly consecrated in the chapel of Lambeth Palace, Archbishop Parker had knelt on the floor of a pub, the Nag's Head in Cheapside, and been told by a bishop who had

been deprived of his living to "receive the power of preaching the Word of God sincerely". This rumour was subsequently repudiated.

But in 1596, Pope Leo XIII issued an encyclical, *Apostolicae Curiae*, which still stands, and in which he condemned Anglican orders as "absolutely null and utterly void".

This was on the grounds that the "intention" of the Anglican Church in its ordination rite is defective because there are no words or acts which confer explicitly on the priest the power to offer sacrifice.

The Second Vatican Council, which met from 1962 to 1965, softened the line slightly.

In its document on ecumenism, the council recognised that the

Holy Spirit was at work in the sacraments of other Churches.

However, when the Church of England decided in 1992 to ordain women, it became clear from the Catholic response that *Apostolicae Curiae* was still the official line.

But even if the difficulty over priestly orders were to be resolved, problems still remain over the nature of the sacrament itself.

Many Anglicans believe the bread and wine to be mere symbols of the body and blood of Christ, whereas Catholics believe they have been transformed by the sacrament into the actual body and blood of Christ.

"It is like the difference between whisky and lemonade," said one cradle Catholic. "There is no comparison."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ex-envoy from Iraq given bail of £10,000

A former Iraqi ambassador seeking refuge in Britain was released from immigration detention yesterday, seven weeks after arriving at Heathrow airport on a false passport. Majid al-Samarrai insists that he faces death if he should return to Iraq.

Majid al-Samarrai, 49, a former Iraqi government propaganda chief and Ambassador to Libya, Bulgaria and most recently Venezuela, was released on £10,000 bail after a hearing at the Immigration Appellate Authority in Feltham, West London.

The former head of National Radio and Television in Baghdad was interrogated by MI5 officers during his detention. His lawyer said that he would be asking the Home Office to issue urgent travel documents to allow Mr al-Samarrai's family to join him in Britain.

£13,000 train set

One of the oldest model trains to be sold at auction fetched £13,800 in London. The German toy, consisting of a locomotive, tender, two carriages and three goods wagons, was made by Buchner of Nuremberg. It had had only three owners since 1849.

Ship fire rages

Firefighters were tackling a blaze on the 20,000-ton British-registered *Kuzkwa*, which was towed into Falmouth by a tug. A stowaway who emerged after the fire broke out in the engine room in mid-Channel on Saturday was being questioned by immigration officers.

Drug-rape arrest

A man of 19 was remanded in custody by Manchester magistrates charged with drugging and raping a schoolgirl. Kevin Michael Hunt, of Newall Green, Wythenshawe, Manchester, is accused of attacking the 12-year-old girl on Friday.

Ferry rescue

Three hundred passengers were involved in a rescue operation when their ferry, *The Pride of Le Havre*, went to the aid of a blazing cargo ship in the Channel. All crew members were winched to safety.

Pilot killed

A pilot killed when his two-seater Cessna crashed into a hillside near Gatehouse of Fleet in Dumfries and Galloway on Sunday, has been named as Phillip Williams, 44, of Kilmarnock. He was flying from Carlisle to Prestwick, and had reported a fault.

Turkey's reprieve

A 20lb turkey on a poultry farm at Hemlock, Devon, has been saved from the Christmas table after becoming a surrogate mother to 11 ducklings. It sat on the nest of abandoned eggs for 28 days and now stands guard over the hatched ducklings.

Boxer sentenced for threat to PCs

By A CORRESPONDENT

HERBIE HIDE, the world heavyweight boxing champion, was ordered yesterday to do 60 hours' community service after admitting using threatening behaviour to two police officers.

The 26-year-old Briton, who holds the World Boxing Organisation version of the heavyweight crown, threw a punch at PC Maria-Jane Horder, which she ducked to avoid, magistrates in Norwich were told. He also pushed PC Robin Boothby, 33, in the face.

Hide, who lives in Norwich, admitted threatening behaviour at a hearing earlier this month. A charge of assaulting police officers, which he denied, had been dismissed after the prosecution offered no evidence.

The magistrates ordered him to complete his community service within 12 months. They said he should pay compensation of £50 each to PC Horder and PC Boothby, plus £50 costs.

Hide was stopped while driving his Bentley erratically in Norwich late one night in July and, questioned by police, he had become abusive, swearing up a traffic form and swearing. Nick Methold, for the prosecution, said that PC

TV stations declare war over hellish neighbours

By CAROL MIDGLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE documentary *Neighbours from Hell* was responsible yesterday for causing a fresh outbreak of hostility between ITV and the BBC.

ITV's director of programmes, David Liddiment, accused BBC executives of "petty small-mindedness" and accused them of poaching the idea from between ITV's nose.

The result is that both channels will now screen uncannily similar documentaries about feuding neighbours within an hour of each other on the same night. Mr Liddiment said it was a blatant example of the BBC letting its preoccupation with ratings override its commitment to its public service remit.

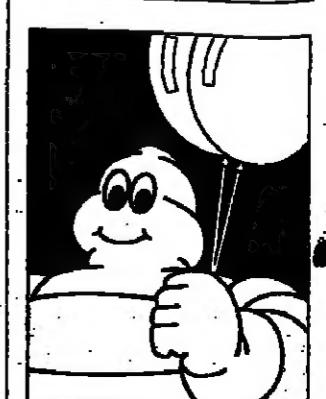
The war began last summer when ITV showed its one-off, hour-long programme *Neighbours from Hell*, which gained an audience of 11 million. ITV immediately began planning a follow-up series but in the autumn the programme maker, Carlton, made the executive producer, Roger James, redundant.

The two freelance directors who had been working with Mr James decided they wanted to carry on working with him and offered the idea by

scheduling *Neighbours from Hell* on the same night as *Neighbours at War*.

"Our programme will be different with full public service support for people caught up in these situations. There will be a hotline and other information available."

The BBC denied it was being petty and small-minded and claimed that the idea of feuding neighbours had been done by Channel 4 and *World in Action* before. "It is not new," said the spokesman. Mr Liddiment has recently poached a number of high-profile staff from the BBC including the head of sport Brian Barwick.



The best Christmas present for 500 years



For 500 years the Nukak, one of Amazonia's last nomadic tribes, have seen their land stolen from them, and their people die. Recently half their population has been wiped out by diseases brought in by outsiders. The man on the right of this photo was amongst them. But now, thanks to Survival's members, their land and their future are secure.

After a six-year Survival campaign, the Colombian government this week finally moved to protect all the Nukak's land. For the first Christmas in 500 years the Nukak have a reason to celebrate. Unfortunately, many other tribal peoples around the world are not so lucky. If you would like to help the world's most effective campaigning organisation for tribal peoples, please ask for details.

As the Nukak will confirm, it's worth it.

Survival
for tribal peoples

Ex-convict given back £10,000

Record-breaking bird comes in from the cold

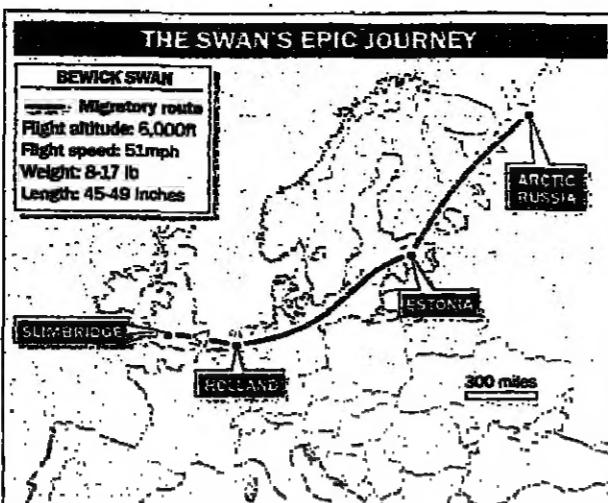
A Russian swan is back for its 27th Christmas, writes Lin Jenkins

A BEWICK'S swan named Casino has entered the record books by returning to Britain for its 27th consecutive winter.

The swan landed at the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust at Slimbridge, Gloucestershire, after a 2,500-mile flight from northern Russia. Its annual arrival at the reserve beats by a year the previous record set by a Bewick's swan in the early 1980s. The normal lifespan of a Bewick's swan is 15 years.

Its history has been chronicled by researchers at Slimbridge. They know that the bird has had two mates, both now dead, and 32 offspring. One of its cygnets has joined it at the reserve which is used as a wintering ground by between 400 and 500 Bewick's swans.

They will stay until the end of February before returning to their Russian breeding grounds. John Bowler, a research officer at Slimbridge, has been watching the bird's progress for nine years. He said: "She is looking very good



and there is no apparent reason why she should not keep going. She could pair up and breed again and we have our fingers crossed for next year."

The bird, who was ringed as a chick, no longer has its tag but is easily recognised by the Slimbridge watchers because

of its distinctive beak markings. However, if it returns next year, Dr Bowler will not be there to see it. He is shortly to begin a new job, tracking sea and tropical birds in the Seychelles for the Wildlife Trusts.

He said: "I am looking forward to the change. But I

will miss the Bewick's swans, particularly Casino."

Bewick's swans are winter visitors to Britain and are sometimes confused with whooper swans, which have a similar flight, call and habits. They nest on tundra and breed on islands in estuaries of large rivers or near shallow water on low-lying shores. Sometimes several pairs may nest in a limited area, each pair building a large, smooth nest up to 2 ft high and built of moss with a few lichens.

In winter and in migration, the swans can be seen on lakes, reservoirs, flooded grasslands and sometimes sheltered sea bays. They feed almost entirely on vegetable matter — seeds, pond grass and aquatic plants — although parts of a small fish have been recorded, and remains of water insects.

Bewick's swans are less common than mute or whooper swans, but can often be seen in family groups or large flocks when they winter in Britain.



Casino the Bewick's swan at Slimbridge yesterday. It is the oldest swan recorded

Chief of police puts policy into practice

By PAUL WILKINSON

A CHIEF constable has experienced policing at the sharp end while travelling through his patch. Barry Shaw, 56, who pioneered the "zero tolerance" policy in his Cleveland force, was being driven to a carol concert when they saw a woman being attacked by two men. He told PC Ian McDonald to pull over.

Before Mr Shaw could intervene, the woman was thrown through a shop window. Assisted by his driver, Mr Shaw held the men until other officers arrived. The woman, 35, who was with two children in Middlesbrough when she was attacked last Thursday evening, did not require medical attention.

Cleveland police said: "The chief knows that officers on the streets could have dealt with this, but he was on the scene. It does prove that our positive policing strategy goes right to the top."

A man has been charged with assault, and four others are expected to face charges of causing an affray.

Hospital set second patient free to kill

By MARK HENDERSON

A TEENAGE schizophrenic killed his neighbour after being released from a hospital which was recently criticised for discharging another patient who went on to kill.

Tolga Kurter, now 20, of Islington, North London, pleaded guilty at the Old Bailey yesterday to the manslaughter of Nicky Boyd, 42, on the ground of diminished responsibility. The Recorder of London, Judge Lawrence Verney, QC, ordered that he be detained indefinitely at Rampton Special Hospital.

Kurter was 19 when he stabbed Mr Boyd to death in April, a few months after undergoing treatment at the Waterlow Unit of the Whittington Hospital in Archway, North London. In March, the same psychiatric unit was the subject of a critical inquiry into the release of Martin Mursell, who killed his stepfather and tried to kill his mother two weeks after leaving its care in 1994.

Norman Harvey, a consultant psychiatrist who took the decisions to release both Kurter and Mursell, resigned from his position at the hospital in May after he was suspended pending an inquiry into Mr Boyd's death. Dr Harvey was strongly criticised in the report into the killing by Mursell, which found he had

"not responded adequately" to the patient's continuing need for out-patient care.

Henry Kennedy, a psychiatrist, told the court that Kurter, who had convictions for assault, dishonesty and possessing offensive weapons, had not been found to have schizophrenia, despite clear signs that he was suffering from it. "In hindsight, the totality of the information shows he had been exhibiting signs of schizophrenia," he said. "I believe this diagnosis was not reached because the clinicians did not want to make a diagnosis that carries such a devastating prognosis."

Mr Boyd, a taxi driver who lived on the same estate as Kurter, was stabbed to death on April 22. Kurter believed he had killed Micky Spears, his mother's former lover, the court was told.

Camden and Islington Health Authority, which is responsible for the Waterlow Unit, won a High Court action this month to halt a damages suit by Christopher Clunis, a psychiatric patient who killed a man on a London Underground platform after being discharged from the authority's care. It is conducting a review of mental health services, and yesterday announced an inquiry into the Kurter case.

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everyman

America trusts more in God and miracles

FROM IAN BRODIE
IN WASHINGTON

AMERICANS' faith in God and belief in miracles are surging to their highest levels in ten years, according to an opinion poll published yesterday.

The Pew Research Centre in Washington reported that 71 per cent of respondents said they never doubted the existence of God — up from 60 percent in 1987. Belief that miracles came from the power of God was held by 61 per cent, an increase of 14 per cent from a decade ago, while 53 per cent said prayer was important to daily life, compared to 41 per cent previously.

The trend appears to be reflected in popular culture. The television programme *Touched by an Angel* is among the top-rated shows, and books on angels, miracles and spirituality are booming.

Martin Marty, a church historian, said science and ideology were not seen as powerful as ten years ago. He drew a contrast between Americans being at ease with the notion of God, and Europe, where religion had suffered from scepticism and wars. He said America's immigrants became more religious after they arrived.

Belief in God does not translate into comparable church attendance. Forty per cent of Americans say they go to church, but the real figure may be only 30 per cent. Mr Marty said.



Leonid Brezhnev on a hunting expedition. The KGB apparently refused his suggestion that it should murder Nikita Khrushchev, right, his predecessor as Soviet leader



Kennedy ordered troops out of Vietnam

FROM IAN BRODIE
IN WASHINGTON

NEW evidence surfaced yesterday that President Kennedy had been planning to pull American forces out of South Vietnam, a move that would have averted America's greatest military defeat.

Documents released from government archives include a memo written by General Maxwell Taylor, his chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in October 1963, seven weeks before the President's assassination in Dallas. The general told the joint chiefs to plan for the withdrawal of all US military personnel by the end of 1965. Indeed, they were to withdraw 1,000 of their troops by the end of 1963.

Kennedy's successor, Lyndon Johnson, feared that a withdrawal would expose him to accusations of being soft on communism when he ran for the presidency in his own right in 1964. He reversed Kennedy's strategy.

The memo will add to controversy among historians over Kennedy's intentions in Vietnam. When the late Robert Kennedy ran for president as an anti-war candidate in 1968, he assured supporters that his brother had been determined to avoid a land war in Asia.

But Ronald Spector, a Washington history professor, argues that a decisive factor in keeping US troops in Vietnam may have been the assassination of Ngo Dinh Diem, President of South Vietnam, between the writing of the Maxwell memo and Kennedy's death.

KGB refused to kill Khrushchev

Leonid Brezhnev wanted to have his predecessor assassinated, writes Richard Beeston from Moscow

THE late Soviet leader, Leonid Brezhnev, contemplated ordering the assassination of Nikita Khrushchev, his predecessor, in 1964 but lost his nerve and instead instigated a bloodless coup, according to a former secret service chief.

Shedding new light on one

of the most dramatic episodes in Soviet history, Vladimir Semichastny, the head of the KGB from 1961 to 1967, broke his silence at the weekend to disclose that the feared secret police had rejected the suggestion that it "eliminate physically" the Communist leader.

Brezhnev was the key insti-

gator of a plot to overthrow him that had the tacit support of the KGB and most key members of the Politburo. However, only a decade after the death of Stalin, none of the leadership wanted to take the first move for fear of being arrested.

"Brezhnev was not a particularly brave man," Mr Semichastny said. "He was already willing to become the top leader, but wanted someone else to sort things out with Khrushchev, without getting involved himself. He was still rather afraid of Khrushchev

so he did not have enough courage to go about it." Mr Semichastny said that Brezhnev finally approached the KGB directly and suggested that Khrushchev should be removed by force, either through arrest or assassination. "When this matter was raised, I flatly refused, saying there would be no physical action and no arrest, nothing like that," he said. "You have a Central Committee plenum, you have the Central Committee, I said, so go on and make a decision, but we are not going to do this — at least the KGB will not play any part."

In the event, Brezhnev waited until Khrushchev went on holiday to the Black Sea resort of Pitsunda that October before winning the support of fellow Politburo members to oust him. The Soviet leader was recalled to Moscow, supposedly for an urgent meeting on agriculture, where he was presented with a fait accompli and told to resign.

Even though his KGB-appointed bodyguard had given a warning of the plot, he was taken by surprise and did not try to fight the decision. Instead he retired to a dacha in the country, where he died in

obsccurity in 1971 and was the only Soviet leader to be buried outside Red Square.

Khrushchev's brief era of liberalisation was quickly smothered during the long period of stagnation under Brezhnev's rule. However, his reforms did leave a powerful impression on a generation of young Russians. Many later played key roles in pushing through the radical changes introduced by Mikhail Gorbachev in the mid-1980s.

□ Tolok: The grandson of Josef Stalin offered Georgia a gift on the 11th anniversary of the dictator's birth — a book containing names and pictures of Stalin's foes.

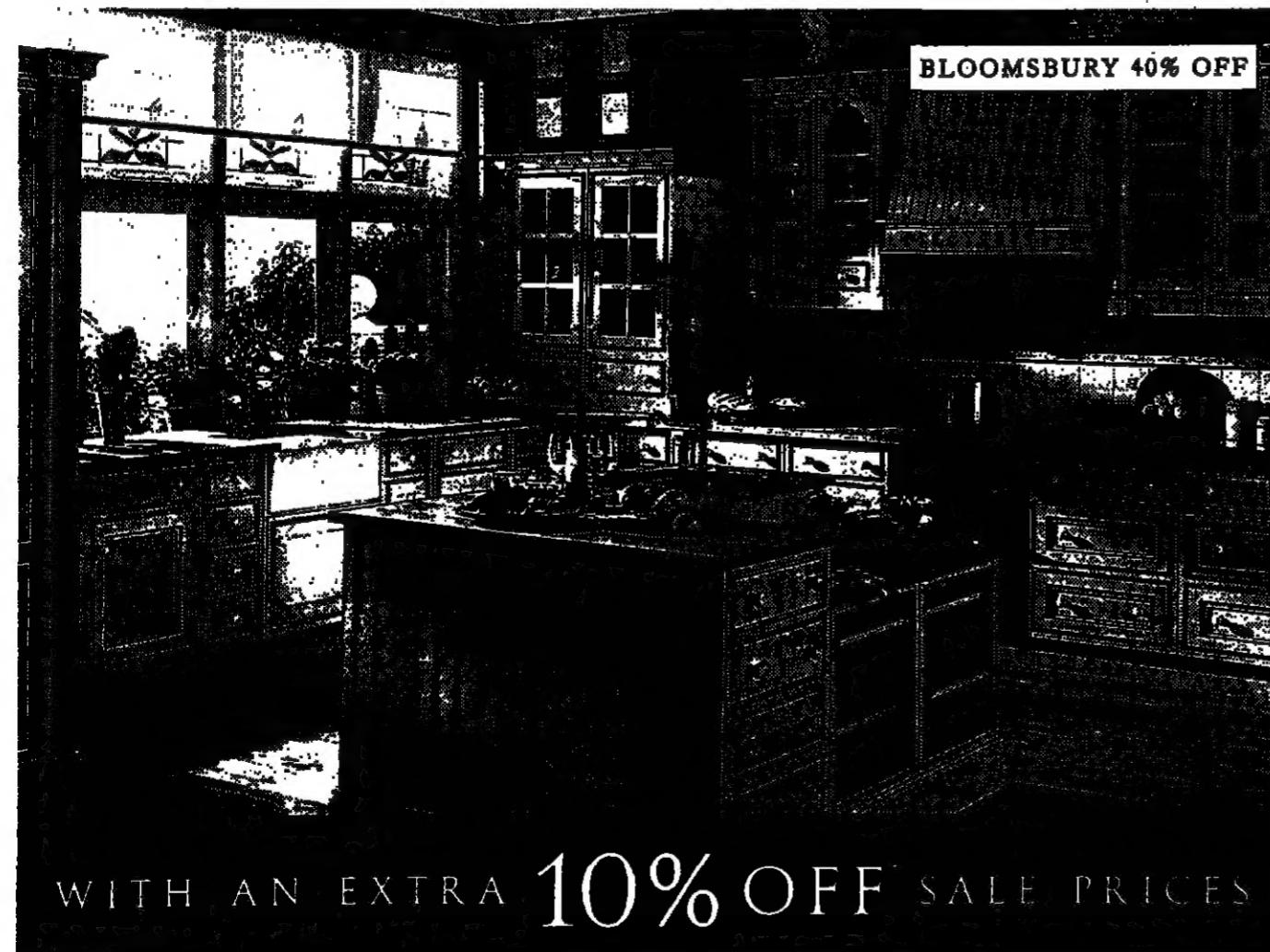
In an interview on Georgian television broadcast yesterday, Yevgeni Dzhugashvili, 59, a former Soviet army colonel, criticised journalists and historians who "denounce and deride" Stalin.

"We have decided to start a 'black book' of those who slander Stalin, accompanied by their pictures so that people see them," said Mr Dzhugashvili, whose surname was Stalin's real name. A copy of the book will be stored at Stalin's museum in his hometown of Gori.



Kennedy: determined to avoid land war in Asia

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A misspent youth helps the joystick generation

FROM TUNKEU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

A GROWING body of research in America suggests that computer and video games — for long the bane of parents who believe that such gadgets do no more than rot their children's brains — may benefit the health of young minds.

Scientists argue that these games, far from adding the heads of adolescents, help children to develop their skills of concentration, visualisation and problem-solving.

According to a report in *The New York Times* yesterday, some experts even believe that computer games are a contributing factor in the steady rise in IQ scores in the industrialised world in recent years.

In a study of about 200

students in America and Italy, published in *The Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology*, researchers concluded that computer games "are not a waste of time". Instead, they should be seen as a form of intellectual exercise.

There is evidence also that a youth "misspent" in the company of computer games serves as useful grooming for a role in a high-technology economy. According to Paul Greenfield, a Professor of Psychology at the University of California in Los Angeles, "the same skills used in computer games are basic technological literacy skills, and these skills are extremely important in the modern world".

Another scholar, J. C. Herz,

from Harvard University, echoes that thesis. In her recent book, *Joystick Nation: How Video Games Ate Our Quarters, Won Our Hearts, and Rewired Our Minds*, she wrote: "Video games are perfect training for life in the digital age".

There is evidence also that a youth "misspent" in the company of computer games serves as useful grooming for a role in a high-technology economy. According to Paul Greenfield, a Professor of Psychology at the University of California in Los Angeles, "the same skills used in computer games are basic technological literacy skills, and these skills are extremely important in the modern world".

You have to recognise patterns in this whirl of data and you have to do fast. Those to the joystick born have a built-in advantage."

Such statements would have been treated as heresy only five years ago by parents and teachers. Years of a "mindless addiction" once led C. Everett Koop, a former US Surgeon-General, to say that American children were "into these games body and soul".

Yet those fears are now crumbling as evidence emerges that a childhood spent with computer games does not turn potential solid citizens into unproductive vegetarians. According to Idit Harel, founder of an Internet website for children, "the kids who grew up immersed in computer games are now in their 20s and they are for the most part a generation of bright, thoughtful and successful young people".



Computer ace: Matthew Broderick and Ally Sheedy pit their wits against the system in *Wargames*

Rabbi laundered drug money

New York: A rabbi and his brother yesterday admitted money-laundering charges after channelling more than \$3 million in Colombian drug proceeds through a Brooklyn synagogue and yeshiva (religious school).

The men were charged with being part of a group of Orthodox Jews who laundered the \$3.5 million (£2.3

million) from Colombian and Dominican drug dealers in 1995 and 1996. By putting the cash through Congregation Eitz Chaim and Bobover Yeshiva and another organization, Chabad Shul, all located in the heavily Orthodox Jewish Borough Park section of Brooklyn, they were able to move the money to Swiss bank accounts and then

back to the dealers. Rabbi Matisyahu Reiss, 47, and his brother Abraham Reiss, 48, pleaded guilty in Brooklyn federal court.

Matty faces up to four

years' jail, while Abraham

faces three years. The men, to

be sentenced in March,

agreed to give up \$1 million

hidden in bank and stock

accounts. (Reuters)

متحف الألعاب

Bosnian capital gives its heart to 'saviour' Clinton

BILL CLINTON cemented his almost mythical status among Bosnians yesterday by becoming the first American President to visit Sarajevo, their capital, and the most warmly received dignitary of the post-war period.

People such as the Pope and the U2 rock group have trodden the same path this year, but the pomp, chaos and traffic jams surrounding their tours paled when compared with the Clinton roadshow.

The President, seen as the saviour of the Bosnian nation, the man who succeeded where Europe's leaders failed, did not disappoint, and gave a heartfelt speech in the national theatre that visibly moved many Bosnian politicians. Even Biljana Plavšić, the Bosnian Serb President and a stranger now reviled in the town of her youth, appeared to be on the point of tears.

After listening to the Sarajevo Philharmonic Orchestra, Mr Clinton, who was accompanied by his wife Hillary and daughter Chelsea, gave a ten-minute speech that was relayed to hundreds outside and broadcast live on national television. "You have seen what has been wrought," he said, his voice croaking. "You know what peace can bring. Seize the chance before you. You can do nothing to change the past, but if you can let it go, you can do everything to build the future. The world is watching, the choice is yours. May you make the right one."

He was applauded by President Izzetbegović of Bosnia and Kresimir Zubak, the Croatian member of the state presidency, both of whom he had praised. Conspicuously, he did not thank Miroslav Krivanić, the Bosnian Serb member of the presidency, who did not attend the theatre



Sarajevo turned out in force for a morale-boosting — and theatrical — first visit by a US President. Tom Walker reports

ceremony, although he did meet Mr Clinton earlier.

The Clintons and their vast entourage, including Madeleine Albright, the Secretary of State, and Bob and Elizabeth Dole, touched down in a C17 transport, *The Spirit of Bob Hope*, in thick mist at Sarajevo at 7.30am, their flight from Washington having been routed through Germany.

A huge security operation that had taken days of planning and rehearsing sprang into action, with snipers and

After Tito, he was the first to really support the idea of the Bosnian nation?

anti-terrorist experts guarding every angle for a potential assassin. Helicopters whirred overhead and from farther above came the quiet drone of unseen Avacs spyplanes.

The initial port of call was the 30-vehicle motorcade was the national museum, where they were driven into a green tent, where photographers were occasionally invited to snap the American leader with the joint Bosnian presidency.

The column of gleaming vehicles then made an unscheduled detour into the Old

City, where to the crowd's delight the Clintons made a brief walkabout in the cathedral square and took a coffee in the Bosnia corner cafe.

"He is up there like a god to us, like Tito," said Hamdija Krestalica, who had brought with him his entire administration department from the central post office. "After Tito, he was the first one who really supported the idea of the Bosnian nation."

For some European observers the Clinton phenomenon was a galling experience. "It is a cosmetic exercise," said one French officer in Nato's Stabilisation Force, wincing at the sometimes chocolate-box nature of the speech. "I do not know who he is fooling — probably the Americans, I hope not the Bosnians." A colleague was equally acid: "It is appropriate that he gives out this stuff in a theatre."

Mr Clinton told his audience that "we gather in the dawn after a long darkness" and urged the politicians staring at him from the front row to heed the Dayton peace accord, now two years old but hardly implemented.

Those who rise to that responsibility will have the full support of the international community; those who shrink will isolate themselves," he said in a pointed reference to Mrs Plavšić, the one-Serb leader apparently prepared to do business with Washington and the West.

Photograph, page 20



President Clinton in Sarajevo yesterday with his daughter, Chelsea, and wife, Hillary. Later, the family flew north to visit American troops

Photograph, page 20



Milošević relief as socialist wins run-off

Serb hardliner defeated at fourth ballot

By TOM WALKER

SLOBODAN MILOŠEVIC looked to have earned himself more breathing space yesterday as his socialist candidate celebrated victory in the run-off for the Serbian presidency.

A collective sigh of relief was breathed by diplomats and Western capitals, where the resurgence of extreme Serbian nationalism, under the maverick lawyer and one-time paramilitary leader Vojislav Seselj, was viewed with horror. The election commission said that Milan Mihailović, the former foreign minister, won 58.6 per cent of votes polled on

Sunday, compared with 38.1 for Mr Seselj. Turnout had been just above the 50 per cent level necessary for validity — the flaw in Mr Seselj's apparent victory last month. Mr Mihailović said last night: "We have finally finished these elections. Now it is time to get to work."

Mr Seselj, whose share of the vote collapsed, claimed that widespread fraud was behind the socialist victory. He blamed ballot-stuffing and intimidation of his party's representatives in the southern region of Kosovo. The majority Albanian population there rarely votes, but turnout was mysteriously high. Belgrade's middle classes, exhausted by

an election that gave them a choice between Mr Milošević's socialism and Mr Seselj's recipe of hard work and xenophobia, appeared to have voted largely to stop the financial drain of the constant re-runs — it was the fourth time they had been asked to vote in three months.

Television probably played a part in Mr Seselj's downfall. The state channel broadcast a damning portrait of him an hour before the election media blackout. It showed selected highlights of Mr Seselj's parliamentary years, including him beating up opponents and pulling out a gun.

Bethlehem pilgrims find no room at the Star hotel

AND she brought forth her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke ii, 7.

THE same fate is likely to befall the millions of Christian pilgrims expected here to mark the rapidly approaching millennium as the ill-equipped West Bank town has only 900 hotel rooms, and plans an increase of only 600 by 2000.

Expectations of hosting four million people during the millennium year are a "joke", Amir Dajani, a hotel management lecturer at Bethlehem University, told a European officials attending a Destination Christmas conference held to coincide with the launching of the logo for Bethlehem 2000, the bid to capitalise on the traditional birthplace of Jesus, six miles south of Jerusalem.

In addition to the woeful lack of infrastructure and accommodation in the town, its tourism industry has been affected by successive crises arising from Islamic suicide attacks. Israeli closures and the disastrous knock-on effect of November's massacre in Luxor, in which 58 tourists



Hanna Nasser, left, the town Mayor, is finding it hard to feel festive, Christopher Walker reports

were slaughtered. With tourism down an estimated 20 per cent on December 1996, it's a bad year because of the bus bombings which killed dozens of Israelis in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, there is an atmosphere of deep gloom hanging over the town where visitors are pounced on by sellers of olive-wood trinkets and unemployment is running at more than 40 per cent.

The few tourists who have so far arrived this Christmas period are all frightened," said Lieutenant Maynal al-Sous, 28, one of the few women serving in the uniformed tourist police of Yassir Arafat, the President of the Palestinian Authority. "All the tourists who come here are frightened because we are Arabs. They

CHRIS HARRIS

in Egypt and Algeria have done — visitors to Bethlehem have been hit by the draconian Israeli closures imposed after every suicide attack.

"For more than 15 days this September, all tourist buses were barred from passing the huge Israeli roadblock that straddles the entrance road some two miles from the Church of the Nativity," said Michel Kreitem, one of a group of Bethlehem hoteliers.

Mr Kreitem, 62, is owner of Bethlehem's leading hotel, the Star, which by what he calls "a minor miracle" has all its 72 rooms let on Christmas eve for every other day of the year, because of the widespread fears of terrorism and even another Israeli-Arab war, occupancy rates do not rise above 25 per cent.

"Until a few days ago our only guests were going to be a group of 20 intrepid pilgrims from London who, unlike everybody else, did not cancel in the wake of the breakdown in the peace process and the Luxor massacre," Mr Kreitem said. "Then out of the blue, staff and visiting family from the Chilean Embassy — all Roman Catholics — suddenly wanted 110 rooms. I gave them every one I had and sent the others to another hotel."

Mr Kreitem, whose family owns the hotel jointly with that of his wife Mary, who followed in biblical footsteps and travelled south from their native Nazareth in 1948, is pessimistic about any improvement in the mood of despair gripping the managers of Bethlehem's 11 hotels and hospices. "Tourism is a factor of the political situation," he said, waving a sheaf of recent cancellations.

The absence of seasonal cheer has been reinforced by the lack of a proper Christmas tree in Manger Square, dominated by a tasteless artificial creation supplied by a local businessman, while some coloured lights have been strung haphazardly over a fir growing in the garden of the Orient Palace Hotel next to the 4th-century Church of the Nativity.

"Last year the Israelis impounded our 46ft tree from the people of Finland in the docks until three hours before the Christmas Eve ceremonies were about to start," said Hanna Nasser, the Mayor of Bethlehem. "They said it might have disease, which was nonsense. We will not be humiliated again, so we have refused all offers of trees from abroad."



Michel Kreitem, who is lucky to have no vacancies at his hotel for Christmas

Negev jobless stage protest

Jerusalem: Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, under pressure to put job-creation ahead of peace, yesterday visited the southern Negev area, where the jobless have been protesting for days (Ross Dunn writes).

In the town of Ofaqim, protesters called on the Government to stop funding the Palestinian Authority. For days, demonstrators have been burning tyres outside the mayor's office. Mr Netanyahu outlined a plan to create 300 new jobs but his move was undermined by news that a textile factory was to move its production to Jordan.

Italian call to scrap US bases

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

Italy were drawn up in the late 1950s and had never been made public or debated by the Italian parliament.

Italy considers itself a linchpin of Western security interests in the Mediterranean at a time when the East-West conflict has been replaced by Balkans instability and fear of the impact on southern Europe of Islamic fundamentalism in hotspots such as Algeria. Nato has hesitated to intervene in places such as Algeria, Kosovo or Cyprus, and has left the Italians to raise and lead a multinational force for Albania.

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لسان العرب

French police face new riots over shootings

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

FRENCH police were last night braced for a fresh outbreak of violence after a demonstration in support of one of two young men shot dead by officers last week.

The shootings sparked three days of riots in a suburb of Lyons and the outskirts of Paris, highlighting what President Chirac refers to as France's "social fracture".

In La Duchère, a district of Lyons, youths set cars alight and attacked police and fire-fighters after Fabrice Fernandez, a 24-year-old father of three, died in the local police station last week.

According to witnesses, Jean Cavalho, 40, an officer who has already been sanctioned twice for professional misconduct, pointed M Fernandez's own shotgun at his face and pulled the trigger, not realising it was loaded.

In an attempt to defuse local anger, the Lyons prosecution service altered the charges against M Cavalho from manslaughter to murder, and Jean-Pierre Chevénement, the interior Minister, called for calm.

But with the victim's family and friends organising a pro-

test march last night, the authorities said that they expected the rioters to defy M Chevénement and continue their violent protest.

"But there are some factors that are always the same," said Hervé Viellard Baron, a sociologist specialising in suburban decay. "Young people who have not worked for years are ready to explode. Family breakdown and personal problems combine with unemployment."

Commentators noted that the rioters in Dammerie-les-Lys were mostly of Arab origin, highlighting the difficulties of ethnic integration in French society.

The violence comes amid a fierce political row after a commitment by Lionel Jospin, the Prime Minister, to treat illegal immigrants with "humanity".

Centre-right politicians said that he had effectively abandoned the fight against illegal immigration.

However, other observers pointed out that M Fernandez was of French origin and the rioters in La Duchère were white. The Lyons suburb is poor, but does not have a large immigrant community.



A riot policeman in Lyons after protesters set fire to a car at the weekend

Sporting strife as Gallic teams give cock the bird

BY ADAM SAGE



FRENCH sport is facing increasing controversy over a decision to remove the cock, the country's national symbol, from the Olympic logo.

The move has split the sporting establishment and infuriated some of its top athletes, one of whom described it as outrageous.

Fiercely independent, stubborn and with a loud voice, le coq represents qualities that the French see as essential and historic parts of their nature. They are enchanted by its refusal to stop crowing, regardless of what is going on.

The Gallic equivalent of the British bulldog was an unofficial national symbol for hundreds of years before being made the official Olympic mascot in 1908. Virtually all national teams have at one time worn an embroidered

cock on their shirts and supporters often take live ones to international matches. French television viewers never tire of seeing footage of a policeman chasing a Gallic cock around Twickenham at an England-France rugby match in the 1980s.

Jean Talbot, a senior French sports administrator, said that

the cock was "the most remarkable animal because it carries on singing even when it is standing in dirt".

But the French National Olympic Committee has decided to abandon the cock and replace it by a logo representing the five Olympic rings and the word "France". The committee said the bird was in decline, with only 20 of the country's 93 national sports teams now using it.

The decision, made last week, sparked an angry backlash when made public at the weekend. Alain Mimoun, a former French marathon runner, declared: "For me, the cock is the true symbol of France. What they have done is outrageous, disgusting."

The bird, however, still has a future as a national symbol. The mascot for next year's football World Cup in France is a Gallic cock.

Sumatran 'Dr Death' on trial

Jakarta: The trial opened yesterday of Indonesia's "Dr Death", a self-proclaimed sorcerer who has been charged with killing 42 women over the past 13 years.

Ahmad Suradji allegedly confessed to the police that he murdered the women and drank their saliva in an attempt to increase his black magic powers.

Hundreds of people flocked to the court in the north Sumatran town of Lubukpokam to see the chained and heavily guarded 42-year-old traditional healer from the nearby village of Sel Semayang.

His killing spree is said to have begun in 1984 after Suradji was told by his father in a dream that his sorcerer's powers would be greatly enhanced if he could drink the saliva of 70 dead women.

His terms for a divorce

The long and short of US divorce case

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

A MULTIMILLIONAIRE, 6ft 8in tall, is suing his 5ft 4in wife for divorce, accusing her of subjecting him to cruel, inhuman treatment and physical and verbal abuse. Examples of "cruelty" cited in court documents include a "forced circumcision" and a "painful facelift".

Bjorn Aaserod, a Norwegian-born investment banker, also accuses his wife Michelle, a petite Georgia belle, of tricking him into a "sham marriage" to milk him of much of his wealth.

Mrs Aaserod, nine years younger than her 40-year-old husband, has filed a counter-claim in the Manhattan Supreme Court, accusing him of being a sexual pervert and serial adulterer.

Her terms for a divorce

include all rights to the couple's six-storey townhouse in the Upper East Side of New York — worth at least \$4 million (£2.5 million) — two Rolls-Royces, and half of her husband's fortune thought to amount to about \$40 million. She has also asked Judge Walter Tolub, who is deciding the case, to award her \$55,000 a month until a settlement is reached.

Mrs Aaserod says she could not accept her husband's sexual perversities, which she claims included frequent sorties to brothels and strip clubs, and so many calls to sex lines that she had to block access to the numbers from her home.

Mr Aaserod describes his wife as a "gold-digger". He is seeking court protection from her, alleging that she has often threatened to kill him.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Ankara-Athens clash on spying

Ankara: Turkey and Greece yesterday announced tit-for-tat expulsions of diplomats in a spy row that signals a worsening of their strained relations. Ankara said it had asked Athens to withdraw Efstathios Haralambous, a diplomat at the Greek Consulate in Istanbul, for "activities incompatible with his status", the diplomatic euphemism for spying.

The Turkish press had accused Mr Haralambous of gathering information on military installations and aiding Kurdish guerrillas. Greece denied the accusation and said it would expel a Turkish diplomat of equal rank. The countries have been at loggerheads recently about Cyprus, military tension in the Aegean Sea and Turkey's faltering attempts to join the European Union. (Reuters)

Letters, page 17

Rebel attack leaves 30 dead

At least 30 soldiers were killed, dozens injured and some taken hostage when left-wing guerrillas of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) ambushed a remote southern army camp yesterday (Gabriella Gamini writes). Some 200 FARC rebels attacked the Cerro de Patasoy army camp at dawn while soldiers slept, according to an SOS message. The attack was believed to be in retaliation for violence by paramilitary groups backed by the army.

Jurists urge Tibet vote

Geneva: In a major setback to Beijing, the International Commission of Jurists declared that Chinese-ruled Tibet was "under alien subjugation" and called for a UN-run referendum to decide its status. In a 365-page report, the leading world jurists said Chinese Communist Party leaders had declared "total war" on the exiled Dalai Lama, and were also threatening to eradicate his influence. (Reuters)

Bond in wake of 'Titanic'

New York: *Titanic*, at \$200 million (£120 million) the most expensive film ever made, grossed an estimated \$27.6 million at the box office over its debut weekend in America, earning more than *Tomorrow Never Dies*, the new James Bond movie, also making its opening (Tunku Varadarajan writes). This is the first time a Bond film has failed to top ticket sales on its debut. The normally invincible 007 made \$26 million.

Students jeer ex-Presidents

Seoul: Two corrupt former South Korean Presidents walked out of jail to jeers from students and cheers from their rich neighbours (Jennifer Veale writes). Police fired teargas to break up students chanting "No freedom for Chun [Doo-hwan] and Roh [Taewoo]". Neighbours gave the pair a rapturous welcome.

Far East worries, page 22

Sharif rescues injured

Islamabad: Nawaz Sharif, right, the Pakistani Prime Minister, pulled three injured men from their wrecked vehicle after a fatal motorway crash on the Islamabad-Lahore motorway, the *Nation* newspaper reported. It said Mr Sharif instructed the driver of his official car to take the injured to Chakwal District Hospital, 20 miles away. One person died in the accident in which a vehicle hit a side wall. (Reuters)



Golden Gate death plunge

San Francisco: A girl, aged two, sightseeing on the Golden Gate Bridge with her parents and brother, aged four, slipped through a 9½ in gap between the railing and pavement and plunged 180ft to her death. Her father failed in desperate attempts to reach her as she lay on a construction site. She was airlifted to a children's hospital, but died. (AP)



CULTURAL conservatism and economic difficulties have combined to produce a deepening crisis in French gastronomy, according to a survey published yesterday. The crisis has been described as symptomatic of a wider malaise in French society.

According to the survey, published by *Le Figaro*, 10 per cent fewer French people visited restaurants this year. Citing figures compiled by Gira Conseil, a specialist consultancy, the newspaper said those who did eat out spent less money, with only a few prepared to pay more than Fr200 (£20) for a three-course meal with wine and coffee.

The survey added weight to a wide-

spread feeling in France that the country's capital is falling behind its British counterpart. "London explodes, Paris sleeps", is the headline in this week's issue of the magazine *L'Événement du Jeudi*.

Joel Fleury, owner of the Grand Colbert brasserie in Paris, said the trend was the result of an economy unable to

offer growth and employment. "The middle classes, even the upper middle classes, have a tight budget. They want value for money... a good welcome, a good atmosphere and service and a correct meal," he said.

However, other restaurateurs said their troubles sprang from a failure to forge a path between Gallic traditions

and modernisation. Jean-Paul Buccher, chairman of the Group Flo chain of brasseries, said: "Restaurants are like the rest of society. They are trying to find themselves."

After the nouvelle cuisine of the 1980s, chefs have returned to traditional recipes this decade, with such classic French dishes as pot-au-feu.

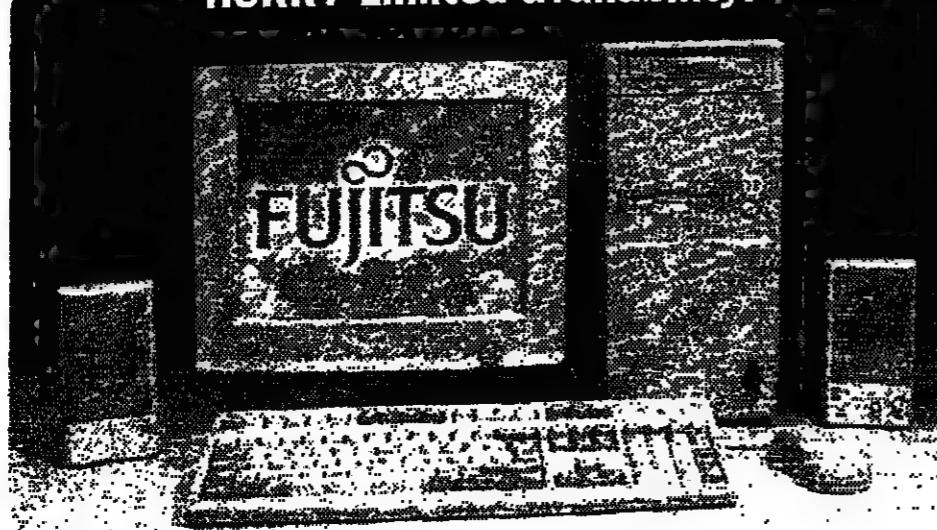
But at a time when elsewhere in the world are engaging in culinary adventures, Gallic cuisine can seem boring and banal, according to some food experts. Kazuto Matsusaka, a Japanese-born chef who worked in Los Angeles for more than 20 years before taking over at the Buddha Bar, one of Paris's most

fashionable — and un-French — restaurants, said: "The French have an extraordinary history and there is no other country like this. But there is a sense in which they are too weighed down by their own culture and traditions. They have to open up and look at what's going on in the rest of the world."

French restaurants will serve about 2.5 billion meals this year, according to the survey, far more than those in most other countries, and the average French person will spend Fr2,850 on eating out. But in 1990 restaurants provided almost three billion meals. The figure has since fallen, with a particularly sharp drop this year.

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Fujitsu

Fujitsu is the world's second largest IT company, with a turnover in excess of \$35bn, and operating on a global basis. The company has been operating for over 60 years, during which time it has become a market leader in desktop and mobile computing as well as in the areas of computer memory, display devices and software. This enviable position has resulted from its continued investment in R & D, (currently running at 10% of revenues) which has ensured the consistent production of reliable, leading edge products designed to meet the needs of the end user.

An anorexic at the feast

Christmas is fraught with stress for children with eating disorders. Moira Petty reports on how parents can cope in a time of crisis

Few of us need to be prompted to eat, drink and be merry at Christmas. For those suffering from eating disorders, though, the festive season can be a time of crisis.

The succession of rich meals and tempting snacks may only harden the resolve of the anorexic to avoid eating, while the bulimic may be plunged into a binge-vomit cycle.

Dysfunctional family relationships are at the heart of many eating disorders, so the traditional Christmas get-together, which can switch rapidly from an occasion of celebration to one of confrontation, may be the cause of additional stress.

For the parents of children and teenagers suffering from anorexia nervosa or bulimia nervosa, Christmas and new year festivities will be fraught with anxiety. Those whose children are faddy eaters or fixated on dieting will be wondering how they can persuade them to eat normally without exacerbating the problem or spoiling celebratory meals for the rest of the family.

Dr Dee Dawson, medical director of Rhodes Farm Clinic in Mill Hill, northwest London, which treats children with eating disorders, offers the following advice on getting such children — and the whole family — through Christmas. Adults should look at the mixed messages that they send out about their own attitude to food. Christmas treats should be enjoyed without protestations of guilt, and gifts of food given without apology, not "I've brought chocolates, is that OK?"

We should also show children, by our own example, what it is normal to eat.

At Christmas that probably means more than we will eat at other times of the year. Many adults will take a tiny slice of cake, but "pick bits off in private, all afternoon", so that the child is given a false view of what the adult is eating. "Nor can you expect a child to eat roast potatoes if you're having a jacket potato without butter," she says.

Dr Dawson recommends not buying diet or reduced-calorie foods. If the child has eaten a heavy Christmas lunch and asks for a low-fat yoghurt, offer a non-diet yoghurt. "They're either hungry or they're not," she says. "We're becoming a nation of health-food fanatics. In the old days, nobody was afraid of tucking into a good meal."

Dr Dawson acknowledges that this may make Christmas meals uncomfortable for family and guests, but that is a small price to pay when faced with a life-threatening illness. One concession may be to limit the numbers at the table, as anorexics find it hard to eat in front of people.

Everyone present at the celebrations should be told of the problem and the strategy to be adopted. "Get them all on your side, or they'll undermine you. Grandma might say 'I didn't make you eat all your potatoes when you were little', or siblings will cry 'Don't be mean, Mum, it's Christmas'."

Getting the anorexic involved in the preparation of Christmas lunch is not a good idea. Anorexics are obsessed with all things culinary, and some very young children are wrongly allowed to take charge of family meals.

"Don't let them in the kitchen," says Dr Dawson. "If you let them assist you with the cooking, they'll have a fit about how much butter or cream is going in."

At Christmas, anorexics feel under greater stress because it is harder to practise their usual food-avoidance techniques, throwing away their packed lunch or claiming that they had eaten earlier. But just because it is Christmas, do not trust them or believe them when it comes to issues of food.

They must not be allowed a long list of foods that they claim to dislike. At Dr Dawson's Rhodes Farm Clinic, patients are allowed three foods that they will not eat: "But not chocolate and chips and butter because that is to do with calories and not real dislike."

The family should maintain the normal rituals of cracker-jawling and joke-telling at Christmas, but should be aware that the severely underweight child "will have no joie de vivre". They are supersensitive to disharmony in the family, so parents and relatives should avoid the niggling rows that sometimes erupt over Christmas. But arguments in which family members speak their minds and clear the air are healthy. Many anorexics secretly believe that shouting at their parents in anger, or slamming the door, will have tragic consequences, such as parent having a heart attack.

Anorexics are a battle for control that can be averted by strong parenting. But Dr Dawson recommends that if



It is normal at Christmas lunch to have a choice but the anorexic must not be allowed options even though it may make the meal uncomfortable for others

children can be encouraged to eat at Christmas, they should be allowed some leeway in other areas. "Let them think they have some control over other parts of their lives. Let them choose what they wear to a Christmas party, or watch a lot of seasonal television — it's not going to harm them."

Christmas may be a time when parents spot the signs of anorexia because it is harder to disguise when the child cannot escape to eat alone in their own room. Signs include playing with their food, eating all of one item before moving on to another item, cutting the food into tiny pieces, removing the middle from pies, mashing food across the plate.

The average age of anorexics in Dr Dawson's unit is 13 and 14, although she has treated sufferers as young as six. Bulimics who overeat and then purge themselves of the food or fast, tend to be in their late teens. The larger amounts

of food around at Christmas can encourage them to binge, so they must not be allowed in the kitchen alone with the leftovers. "They will eat everything in sight, but there is so much food around that nobody will question it."

Bulimics should be made to go to the lavatory before they sit down to Christmas lunch so they will not need to go directly afterwards. Parents should be aware that gastric emptying in bulimics is often delayed, and they may vomit up to 2½ hours after the meal. They should be accompanied to the lavatory, the door left ajar, and the pan inspected before flushing as they are able to vomit silently.

Only 4 per cent of schoolchildren are truly overweight, but 60 per cent of teenagers talk about dieting. This may be more pronounced at Christmas because of the fattening foods on offer. Few teenagers actually lose weight, says Dr Dawson, so it may be all talk and no action. Even slightly podgy children do not need to diet, and puppy fat is a normal feature of puberty. Dr Dawson points out: "I wouldn't be concerned about a teenager who decided not to eat for two days. But if Christmas Day came and they were still not eating, I would worry, because this is not normal."

Regular menstruation is a sign that all is well, while younger children should be weighed if parents are concerned. Many children are preoccupied with their body image. When buying a Christmas party outfit, they may ask: "Do my legs look fat?"

"I tend to say to my lot 'This is a really boring conversation.'

I don't worry about the size of my friends' thighs, but how much fun they are'. I make it clear that I don't want to get into such a conversation. You

can point out that bodies come in a range of sizes. Fashion models may be thin, but Page Three girls aren't and men like this variety," says Dr Dawson.

Exercise equipment would not be a suitable gift for a child trying unnecessarily to lose weight. A gentle walk with the family after lunch is sensible, but "not walking until the dog has no legs left", says Dr Dawson. "You should padlock a child's bicycle if they're going to be silly."

Faddy eaters can be a nuisance, but they are not medically at risk. Dr Dawson says: "I'd work hard to give them a balanced diet, but some children thrive on beans on toast. They usually grow out of it."

Parents should remember that they are the models for the child's eating habits. If, by Boxing Day, they are already planning their new year dieting regime, they should think about the effect this may have on the child.

Cash rolls in for Dorah

Generous readers bring hope to the brave little girl who defied death

LAST week *The Times* told the story of Dorah, a South African girl who was horribly burnt as a baby, abandoned by her mother and who may now lose her eyes. The response has been overwhelming. By yesterday — just six days after Bronwen Jones's article appeared — readers had sent £41,000 to help Dorah.

The reaction has been so generous that steps are being taken to set up a trust to help the three-year-old child Bronwen found in Springs hospital, near Johannesburg. The money will be used to get Dorah to a doctor who can help, or to get a doctor to her, and to train and pay for the carers she will need during treatment.

Several doctors have already expressed an interest in Dorah and are being sent her



Our article touched hearts

medical details. However, Bronwen and the trust would still like to hear from any other doctor who may be able to help. South African doctors feel that they have no option but to remove Dorah's eyes to prevent further infection. They hope that a doctor somewhere else in the world may have the knowledge and skills necessary to save her eyes.

As well as sending money, many *Times* readers have written letters and sent e-mails to wish Dorah well — messages Bronwen has found profoundly moving.

"When I left Britain six years ago, I thought it was a heartless place, selfish and insular," she says. "This response has made me feel like hugging everyone. We need people like Dorah to remind us of our basic humanity."

• **Donations to help Dorah** can be sent to Victor de Gray, Barclays Premier, 16 Rose Lane, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2UR, or paid into any bank to account 30299065, sort code 20-17-92. Cheques should be made payable to A Charity Appeal Fund for Dorah Moekane. Bronwen Jones can be contacted by e-mail: riuafrica@icon.co.za. A SKY TV news report on Dorah can be seen tomorrow between 7 and 7.15pm and 8 and 8.15pm.



ARTS

Richard Cork on a newly revealed Renaissance image of the Nativity Pages 28-29

NOTICE TO BORROWERS

Portman Building Society announces changes to its variable mortgage interest rate for existing borrowers with effect from and including 8 January 1998, as follows:

- Residential property standard mortgage rate increased by 0.29% gross.
- Commercial property mortgage rate increased by 0.25% gross.
- Portman Mortgage Services Limited mortgage rate increased by 0.29% gross.

Where notice is required, the change to the rate of interest will take effect on expiry of the notice period. The period of notice will commence on 8 January 1998.

This notice does not affect the following:

- Loans currently subject to a fixed rate.
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Between August 1994 and December 1996, Dyson Appliances Ltd published a leaflet entitled *The Story of the Dyson Dual Cyclone* and, during 1996, published a book entitled *'Doing a Dyson'*. These publications wrongly stated that, in earlier patent litigation, "the American courts found in [Dyson's] favour, acknowledging that his patents had been infringed". This statement is false and is hereby retracted.

In recent publications, other parties have made statements concerning the outcome of the litigation. Any statements which might imply that Amway was found guilty of patent infringement are false. In fact, the litigation was settled.

Dyson Appliances Ltd and James Dyson, Chairman of Dyson Appliances Ltd, regret any negative effects these inaccurate statements may have had on Amway, its affiliates, customers, and independent distributors.

Don't get tired and emotional

MEDICINE CHEST
DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

such a treat. Barbiturates can be addictive and are rarely prescribed. Even those who take them should never mix them with alcohol. The short and medium-acting benzodiazepines, including Temazepam, have fallen into disrepute because they are subject to abuse.

Rohypnol, sometimes prescribed in Britain to induce sleep at odd hours, for example when flying, is the latest to be tried and found wanting by the media, but there is scant evidence to suggest that it is a commonly abused drug in this country.

It is not available on the NHS in Britain, but overseas it is taken as a sleeping pill by a million people every day and more open to abuse.

Its rapid elimination from the system makes it difficult to detect in criminal cases, but a detailed forensic analysis in America of a sample of 500 cases of drug-assisted sexual assault found traces of Rohypnol in only 1 per cent of these cases — and in none of these was it the only drug given to the woman.

Sleeping pills may be useful to treat transient or short-term insomnia. They should not be used for more than two or three weeks at a time, and even then should be taken intermittently. Sleeping pills are of little use to chronic insomnia other than to give the occasional good night, although at Christmas they may feel they deserve

such a treat. Barbiturates can be addictive and are rarely prescribed. Even those who take them should never mix them with alcohol. The short and medium-acting benzodiazepines, including Temazepam, have fallen into disrepute because they are subject to abuse.

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Acohol was found to be the reason for the woman's incapacity to refuse sex in 20 times as many cases as Rohypnol, and cannabis was almost as often to blame. Cocaine was also

found in conjunction with other drugs. So far there have not been any proven cases of Rohypnol-associated rape in this country, and in future it will be more difficult to disguise. An extra ingredient is to be added to the tablet that will make it less soluble and will turn any drink royal blue.

A more common reason for not prescribing short or intermediate benzodiazepines is that they produce some residual ill effects the following day, and long-acting benzodiazepines such as Mogadon and Dalmane cause drowsiness.

Sleeping pills of choice are now Zimovane zopiclone and its rival Stilnox zolpidem. Both drugs are less likely to cause hangovers or sleepiness on waking, or to give such heavily dream-laden sleep as the older sleeping pills.

Any form of sleep-inducing medicine is considered medically undesirable in children. However, the situation can be so dire that some doctors prescribe Phenergan, an antihistamine, but they cause bad temper in a high number of cases.

I have always preferred

Atarax, another anti-histamine that is usually prescribed for children with severe itching. The drug is not given to babies under six months.

Think you can pull women? Pull the other one

Most men are dreadful at chatting up women. But a study of female body language can put an end to flirting with disaster, says Joe Joseph

Here, Hotips! I noticed you the minute you turned over to this page, and I was wondering if maybe you and I could go some place quiet and chat a little about why it is that men have become so hopeless at flirting and... hey, where are you going? You haven't finished your drink. Can I call you tomorrow?

You see how bad it's got? And so quickly, too. It wasn't that long ago that a well-brought-up man wouldn't dream of approaching a strange woman at a party with a sentence as clumsy as: "You're the only girl here I fancy jumping into bed with!" — because he would know instinctively that the proper form in such circumstances is: "You're the only girl with whom I fancy jumping into bed!" But don't blame men for this sad slip in standards. They have become so scared of saying the wrong thing that many of them no longer say anything at all.

Nowadays most men, according to scientists at Stanford University in California, are just too shy to flirt. Kate Fox, director of the Social Issues Research Centre in Oxford, says that part of this fear of flirting is caused by overzealous political correctness, which has come out of concerns about sexual harassment. Men who were once bewitched are now merely bothered and bewildered by the whole flirting ritual. Some of them are so bewildered that they have completely lost their touch. When the magazine

Men have become so scared of saying the wrong thing that they no longer say anything

Maxim asked its readers what they felt when they saw women laughing, nearly a third thought the women were laughing at them. Not even with mind, you, but at...

Of course, one big genetic handicap for men is their inability to interpret a woman's sexual body language. If she is attractive enough, men are so blind with desire they can barely register her verbal language (*Woman*: "See this knife? Unless you get lost, I'm going to poke it into your chest"). *Man*: "Oh, is it sharp enough? Shall I fetch you a sharpener from the kitchen?"

This is why most men have such a sorry hit rate. Women usually flirt to win. When men think they have flirted successfully, it is often only because they have chanced on a woman who is flirting assiduously with them.

You are still surprised that a recent study by the Harris

end of a party; others see no reason to limit their options this way. A man, if desperate enough, will flirt with a watermelon.

Women, having started flirting but then decided that they have mischosen their target, will retreat gracefully. Men, on the other hand, having located a responsive woman, are pretty much impossible to deter. Nothing puts them off. If a woman starts chatting up a handsome man but then finds that he sweeps out pigeons for a living, she might think twice. Compare this to the average man who — on discovering that the woman he is trying hard to seduce regularly robs banks while armed with an Uzi — will barely miss a beat ("Oh, so tell me, what are you doing after you rob Barclays next Tuesday? Fancy some dinner?").

Of course, one big genetic handicap for men is their inability to interpret a woman's sexual body language. If she is attractive enough, men are so blind with desire they can barely register her verbal language. Here, for example, are some familiar female gestures and what they mean to men and women:

(a) Hesitant smile. *Woman's meaning*: I hope he doesn't come over and talk to me. *Man's interpretation*: She fancies me.

(b) Hair flick. *Woman's meaning*: I must get my fringe cut. *Man's interpretation*: She fancies me.

Research Centre found that only 8 per cent of British men have any confidence at all in their flirting abilities? Wait, there's something even more embarrassing: 90 per cent of men can't even tell if they are being chatted up.

The explanation for this probably lies in the fact that men fondly assume that flirting up involves at least a minimal level of conversation, whereas women chat up men with a series of body signals involving eyes and arms — signals which, when executed expertly, are devastatingly effective even though they are barely detectable by the human eye, and which, when executed clumsily, can make a woman appear to have a rare combination of severe juncitivitis and fleas.

To men, "What do you like for breakfast?" is a relatively sophisticated chat-up line (relative to "Blimey! Are those real luv?" Both of these, however, are still a long way from the three words that American researchers found fell most sweetly on a woman's ear, which turned out to be "You've lost weight". This is why women prefer to flirt with their mouths closed, in the hope that men might learn to do the same.

The trouble is that men misunderstand almost all the vocabulary of female body language. Here, for example, are some familiar female gestures and what they mean to men and women:

(c) Skirt hike. *Woman's meaning*: Damn! Myights have laddered. *Man's interpretation*: She fancies a threesome with me and Simon.

(d) Hand hold. *Woman's meaning*: I'm beginning to feel woozy. I hope I don't throw up on the jacket of this jerk I'm leaning against. *Man's interpretation*: She fancies me.

(e) Raise eyebrows. *Woman's meaning*: My left contact has popped out. *Man's interpretation*: She fancies me.

(f) Fingernail biting. *Woman's meaning*: Don't bother coming another step nearer, mister. *Man's interpretation*: She's a lesbian.

(g) Feign vomiting as man approaches. *Woman's meaning*: I must get my fringe cut. *Man's interpretation*: She's a lesbian.

(h) Raise eyebrows. *Woman's meaning*: I hope he doesn't come over and talk to me. *Man's interpretation*: She fancies me.

(i) Hair flick. *Woman's meaning*: I must get my fringe cut. *Man's interpretation*: She fancies me.

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profitable approach. As a first step, men should do the following questionnaire to assess how much remedial treatment they actually require:

1. I admire a woman who looks... (a) for the good points in others; (b) her laurels; (c) both ways before crossing a busy road; (d) available.

2. I think that it's best to tell a woman... (a) that you like to kiss on the first date; (b) that you are a married man; (c) that you like the scene she is wearing; (d) by her chest size.

3. I tend to be most successful with girls who are... (a) lawyers; (b) teachers; (c) nurses; (d) desperate.

4. Er, Katie — it is Katie, isn't it? — I'd really like to see you in... (a) a taxi home; (b) a day or two; (c) court; (d) a nurse's outfit.

5. I like a woman who pours out... (a) her heart; (b) her troubles; (c) her own drinks; (d) of her dress.

6. Many men when they see a woman wearing a see-through blouse stare straight at her breasts. I know... (a) this is ungentlemanly; (b) this is vulgar; (c) this embarrasses her; (d) I certainly do.

7. Because of my dress sense, I often appear in... (a) Armani; (b) Versace; (c) Calvin Klein; (d) women's nightmares.

8. It doesn't bother me if the girl I'm chatting up is not... (a) under 25; (b) a virgin; (c) pretty; (d) awake.

But don't go thinking that just because a man might be faulty at flirting, he doesn't have someone to whom he is very special to him, someone he refers to, romantically, as "the girl of my dreams". Sometimes she's a blonde; sometimes a woman he first set eyes on in the office; sometimes she's the woman from the dry cleaner's; but whoever she is, she's usually unaware that he even exists.



Women chat men up with a series of body signals involving eyes and arms — signals which, when executed expertly, are devastatingly effective

I'd rather be a super mum than a superwoman

Actress Teri Hatcher is giving up work to be with her baby. Claire Roberts, who also swapped champagne buckets for nappy pails, offers her moral support for the difficult time ahead



Teri Hatcher: her decision was prompted by the Louise Woodward case

She has been Superman's girlfriend and James Bond's bedmate. They seem hard acts to follow, but not for Teri Hatcher, the actress. She has just announced that she is giving up dabbling with silver-screen superheroes to be a hands-on mother to her month-old daughter, Emerson Rose.

Going to film premieres in designer gowns and being adored by Hollywood hunkies seems a million miles away from wandering around in your dressing gown, with a tiny baby strapped to your milky-mouthing infant. But good luck to her. It is never a decision taken lightly when you have a well-established career. I should know.

I have never dabbled with superheroes and was only a lowly national newspaper fashion editor when, five years ago, I decided to go freelance to spend more time with my daughter. I had gone back to work when Jessica was three months old, outwardly determined to fight the fight of working mothers and prove it was all possible.

I was going to report on the fashion collections four times a year and be the perfect mother at the same time. Milan, London, Paris, New York, Chiswick play group. No sweat. But inwardly, from the first anguished day of leaving Jessica with a nanny, I knew I had got it all wrong. Stupidly, it took me almost two years and three nannies to make the break, to opt for the "good life" in a remote Cornish farmhouse and to work free-

you have had your eye on or splashing out on a bottle of Moët on the way home are addictive treats.

This is exactly what Liz Tom misses. Eight years ago, aged 30, she gave up her champagne lifestyle to become a full-time mother.

"Mine is a typical riches to rags story," she laughs. "My

partner and I not only gave up our £100,000 joint salaries but also our London life because we wanted to bring up our children without names in Cornwall."

Liz struggled to work as a 500-a-day management trainer for a year after having her daughter, Gosel, before she conceded that the juggling

school runs and tea parties would not go amiss. And men, despite all the intensive training designed to make them "new", still talk to working women — their equals — in a more animated and interested

path than those who say they will give up work but never do. We have all been to dinner parties where there is a high-powered working mother who claims that babies do not need their mothers as much as toddlers do. She will give up work when her son is two, she says. Two years on and she is still working, but now she claims that school-age children need their parents far more than toddlers. She will give up work when her son is five. The deadlines continue to be extended until she claims that the most important time for children to have their mother's full attention is when

their latchkey offspring are doing their A levels. By this time the little son is a big son and cannot think of anything worse than his mother cramping his style, so she carries on working because "she is no longer needed at home".

I have no doubts that Teri Hatcher has made the right decision, but if she thinks she has taken a straightforward option, she has a rough ride ahead. As Liz Tom puts it: "You feel guilty working as a mother, but you also feel guilty not contributing to the family income and not fulfilling your potential. In short, you can't win."

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Don't punish the needy, Mr Blair

Conrad Russell on the injustice in Labour's welfare reform

It was apparent well before the election that Tony Blair intended to finance health and education by reducing the social security budget. There is nothing wrong with that: for most of the Conservative years, social security was both the biggest and the fastest growing area of government spending. Any new government would have wanted to change that.

What is now clear is that Mr Blair believes he can reduce the social security budget by changing the social security system. That is a bad case of shooting the messenger. The social security budget is demand led, and therefore largely outside the department's control. People become a charge because they are in need and if social security does not take the strain, it tends to fall on the budgets of other ministries.

By far the biggest item in the social security budget is pensions, and the biggest cause of increase in pensions spending is that we are living longer. Governments would be ill-advised to try to put this change into reverse. And tinkering at the margins which divide public from private provision does nothing to reduce the cost to society. The second cause of increased spending is growing social sensitivity to disability. This is the mark of a civilised society, and any government which tries to reverse it is unlikely to enjoy a second term. The third cause is relationship breakdown. Parliament has accepted reluctantly that it is beyond the Government's power to reverse this change; herein the patients must minister to themselves.

The fourth cause of increased demand is growth in unemployment and under-employment. Under-employment, for these purposes, can be defined as employment at rates which need to be supplemented by in-work benefits. This is the only cause of increased demand which is under government control. But not under the control of the Department of Social Security. The case of housing benefit is an example. The underlying problem is that many people earn too little to pay market rents. This used to be met by subsidies from the Department of the Environment. The subsidies now come through social security, so one of the biggest apparent increases in social security spending is simply a transfer from another department.

Recent attempts to restrict housing benefit seem to be having the effect that people cannot afford to be housed, and so cannot work. This is the Treasury shooting itself in the foot. If social security does not meet the need, the need does not go away.

Whenever the cost of poverty has become burdensome, attempts have been made to blame the poor for unemployment as an excuse for not relieving them. One Essex village in the reign of Charles II even stigmatised its poor by making them wear a yellow star. Where Tudor England used to blame "sturdy beggars", we now blame "welfare dependency". There were always a few anecdotal cases to

These safeguards are even more important when the Government talks of helping the disabled to work. The ambition is laudable, and Professor Stephen Hawking is a reminder of what can be achieved. What must be understood is that between the able-bodied and the disabled, there is a very long spectrum. Most can do some jobs, but the final judgment of which ones must rest with the disabled themselves.

This is not constitutional reform; this time there can be no Liberal Democrat collaboration. We fought the last election against Labour's welfare proposal. We want to reduce the cost of the welfare state, but by creating jobs, not by cutting benefits. We want to help people off benefit, but by creating opportunities not by starving them into submission. We are not in the business of running the benefit office on the River Kwai. When they set up their working party, Labour will be on their own. Indeed, it seems Mr Blair will be on his own.

Lord Russell is social security spokesman for the Liberal Democrats in the House of Lords.



SELECTIVE CULL

The past and future of the British beef industry

It was an unfortunate but entirely apt reflection on the BSE affair that Jack Cunningham's statement to the House of Commons yesterday should be delayed by an inexplicable technical malfunction. The same combination of error and uncertainty has been present throughout this fiasco. The Minister for Agriculture recovered — rather better than the beef industry — to offer a brief statement that was wide-ranging and broadly persuasive. His department has hardly been in the forefront of truly open government and the belated arrival of the searchlight of scrutiny, under the charge of Lord Justice Phillips, must be welcomed.

The case for a searching inquiry — but not a partisan kangaroo court — is powerful. The whole BSE melodrama has been an extraordinary and exceptionally expensive story. The unfortunate truth is that neither the events themselves nor the expense have reached their conclusion. It might be argued that the allocation of blame for the BSE crisis is either impractical or irrelevant. However, the restoration of confidence (or not) in the beef industry requires much firmer responses to questions that have been asked but rarely answered. Without a credible investigation from an independent source, baseless rumour will displace fact and, partial interpretation, eclipse dispassionate analysis.

There would, at this stage, seem to be three candidates for public contempt. The industry itself which — according to some — engaged in potentially poisonous practices in the 1980s and then demanded vast public compensation in the 1990s. The second candidate is the Ministry of Agriculture (MAFF) which, according to its substantial company of critics, has behaved consistently as if its initials stood for More Aid Fast to Farmers. Finally, there are the scientists who, according to certain politicians, operated on an exceptionally flexible concept of

certainty. All or none of these institutions might be deemed responsible. It is in the interest of all concerned to clear the air.

The most significant aspect of the Cunningham statement may be that about which he was most deliberately ambiguous. The Minister asserted that restructuring of the industry was "vital" and that it was essential for UK producers to presume that major changes were inevitable. This should be read as an acknowledgement that the export ban on British beef will not be lifted for some years to come. Furthermore, it can be calculated, Dr Cunningham does not think that consumer confidence will return much faster. This is not a Ministry message which will be popular with rural communities. That does not mean it is unrealistic.

The Opposition sought to place attention on the financial scheme that Dr Cunningham outlined for hill farmers. This will consist of £60 million offered to the beef sector from European Union funds. Another £25 million will be made available in 1998 via an increase in the Hill Livestock Compensation Allowance. Dr Cunningham stresses that this allowance was "exceptional and one-off". The farmers will doubtless note that more could have been made available from EU coffers.

It is indicative of this whole affair that two, utterly different, reactions may be felt in the country to this compensation package. Those who believe that farmers chose to engage in dubious feeding practices in the 1980s will be outraged that one penny has been paid from the public purse. Others who have concluded that the health scare has been fuelled by hype will think that Dr Cunningham has been parsimonious. There cannot be a convincing answer to the question of financial claim until the question of factual blame is settled. We can only hope that the Phillips inquiry is more effective and timely than every other aspect of this saga.

OFF THE GROUND

The Eurofighter now awaits construction

After years of uncertainty and squabbling, the defence ministers of Britain, Germany, Italy and Spain yesterday committed their governments to the construction and purchase of Eurofighter, the \$40 billion aircraft that will form the backbone of European defence until well into the next millennium. Their signature in Bonn of a binding agreement guarantees up to 80,000 jobs in Britain, ensures that European defence industries remain at the forefront of technological innovation, and gives the manufacturers a product that will, over time, reap billions of pounds in export orders. Yet so chequered has been the history of this ambitious project that few can now believe that the crises of the past decade are over. Eurofighter looked stillborn at least three times; its birth will be a marvel not only of engineering but of political will.

British industry will welcome the final go-ahead for the fighter without reservations. With a 38 per cent stake in the project, Britain will manufacture many of the most sophisticated components, including the cockpit, the front canard wings, part of the main wings, the new EJ200 engines and much of the avionics, including the advanced ECR20 radar. Almost all the leading engineering and avionics companies will have a share of the work, ensuring their global competitive edge and the maintenance of a skilled workforce. Parts of the country will have jobs guaranteed for years to come, especially in Lancashire, Bristol and Derby. Britain will continue to be a centre of engineering excellence.

These arguments were long rehearsed in the wrangling among the four producing nations, especially when Germany was straining to pull out of the project. Britain, playing on Germany's European commitment, insisted that unless the project went

ahead, America's technological lead would become unassailable. It argued that the fighter was the single greatest co-operative project making a reality of the European Union's dream of pooling its industrial muscle and interchanging training.

None of this, however, could stand beside the determining question: was the fighter really needed? Conceived in 1983 at the height of the Cold War, with development getting underway in 1988, Eurofighter was almost an early casualty of the euphoria that overtook the West after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. The Germans, especially, insisted there was no longer a need for a plane to challenge the best of the Soviet air force. They considered its avionics, specifications and armaments too heavy, expensive and sophisticated for what they believed would, in future, be the low-level threats to Western security. Volker Rühe, the German Defence Minister, was determined to cancel the project, or, at best, change the Eurofighter into a cheaper and lighter plane.

Eventually, the Germans were convinced, partly by the experience of the Gulf War, that such arguments were naive. Europe needs up-to-date defence no less in time of peace than at the height of global ideological conflict. With the Cold War over, Europe could, in theory, have bought cheap Russian MiG29s, but spares would have presented an insurmountable obstacle — let alone the politics of relying on Moscow. The only real alternative was the American F22. But at double the cost, this would not provide commensurate extra security. Like Concorde and Airbus, other multinational aviation projects that appeared doomed during development, Eurofighter is both justified in its mission and of immense consequence to the competitiveness and innovation of Western defence. It has now, finally, taken off.

HO, HO, HI

Americans embrace the British Christmas

British exports may have had a difficult year in America, but there are some UK products which have clambered over the EU's tariff barriers to run riot through stateside shopping malls. While British mums have scoured high streets for Tellytubbies, American mums have tramped main streets for another sweet yet cloying celebration of the full stomach — the traditional Christmas pudding. For a nation which has come to regard skinned mink in the decaf as an unfathomably decadent way in which to round off a dinner of mixed leaves and skinless chicken breast, the emergence of Mrs Beeton's suet cannibalism as the new pudding of choice is as culturally significant as any of this year's social changes.

A country which had come to regard silicon as the only acceptable way of adding inches to the figure is learning to loosen its belt for the season of goodwill. Purveyors of traditional English fare are delighted at the rejection of body fascism. This Christmastide there is much joy in the kingdom of Harrods over the throngs who repeat: The Treasury too, will be delighted — welcoming the boost to foreign earnings.

Piggy pudding is, however, not the only traditional trapping of the British Yule to win new friends abroad. The leading importer of transatlantic bibelots is Neiman-Marcus, the upscale department store where the assistants responded to Imran Khan's

concerns about the Kashmir conflict by advising his wife to team the cardigan with a silk scarf. The biggest hit this season has not, however, been anything tight in the new brown, black or grey but something with an even shorter post-purchase life than a New York cocktail dress — the Christmas cracker.

The appeal of crackers, the paper ones that is, was hindered initially by the common language which divides our two great nations. American customers were, apparently, slow to see the attraction of pulling at a dry biscuit to celebrate the festive season. The glorious extravagance, however, of investing in a Christmas cracker which could not be packed away in the goodie trunk for subsequent re-use eventually worked its magic on a country of conspicuous consumers. Pulling on a cracker has become an American declaration of financial independence.

It is fitting that preparations for this Christmas should prove the Congressional Speaker Newt Gingrich right in his assertion that the Atlantic was easier to cross than the English Channel. Although many apparently British Christmas traditions are German inventions introduced by Prince Albert the character of the season really owes more to Dickens and Disney than Deutschland. The special relationship is alive and well, paper hats on the partners' heads and plum duff on the table.

Sincerely,
BEN NÓBLE.
25 Windermere Avenue, Hawcoat,
Barrow-in-Furness LA14 4LN.
December 19.

A matter of trust

From Mr Ben Noble

Sir, Having listened to the Prime Minister (report, December 18) and read the Paymaster General's statements (report, December 19) on the question of offshore trusts, and not understanding what these are about, can I ask them what the purpose of these trusts is, apart from avoidance of UK tax?

Sincerely,
BEN NÓBLE.
25 Windermere Avenue, Hawcoat,
Barrow-in-Furness LA14 4LN.
December 19.

Resolving Labour economic conflicts

From Mr Mike Faulkes

Sir, As a lifelong Conservative I applaud new Labour's determination to keep government expenditure within strict limits. We have a strong economy but high interest rates directed at avoiding inflation. The consequently high pound damages exports. Isn't there another way of balancing these conflicts? A reduction in interest rates could be mirrored by an increase in taxation which would leave the average family no worse off. This would help exports, increase government income and reduce its expenditure on servicing the national debt. The result would be to make exports stronger and enable the Government to improve expenditure on vital services or restart repaying the national debt, or a judicious combination of the two.

The Government did give a manifesto undertaking not to increase taxes. It has already broken this several times. If the proposed increase was clearly a package leading to reduced mortgage repayments it should be within the wit of the Government to explain this to the electorate. It presumably has sufficient influence over the Bank concerning interest rates. At present it is wringing its hands and doing little positive in the economic field.

Welfare changes

From Mr Frederik Dean

Sir, I would like to commend the Government on its programme of welfare reform (letters, December 9, 13, 17, 18). As the steward of this nation's taxpayers' money it must be wise in spending limited resources.

It is good and proper that this country has a system which helps those who cannot help themselves. I would, however, like to suggest that there are insufficient funds available to distribute to those who will not help themselves.

Spending priorities will have to be made. It is time individual responsibility was again seen as a key to a stable, caring society. Without it, "rights" should not be forthcoming to anyone who claims them.

Yours sincerely,
FREDERIK DEAN.
36 Normanbury Avenue,
Bournemouth BH8 9NP.
fadi@dogfdeadon.prestel.co.uk
December 19.

Cold War memories

From Mrs Caroline Scallion

Sir, Richard Beeston, your correspondent in Moscow, must be too young to remember the temperatures in that city at the end of 1978 (weather reports, December 17, 18). They too were the lowest for the preceding century. Mr Beeston's parents should remember, as they were there at the time (with *The Daily Telegraph*), as were we (with Barclays Bank).

Thermometers in Moscow plunged to -40°C. We watched the guards at Lenin's tomb changing every 15 minutes one night, in spite of the heating pads under their feet; garage-leis cars had their engines turned over every 15 minutes all night and most of the day; and we filled our screen washers with vodka, which did not freeze; humans could stand being outside for only 10 to 15 minutes at a time before returning to their overheated apartments and a warming tot of brandy. Dacha parties arranged for the festive season had to be cancelled.

Democracy, it seems, does not have a monopoly on lowest recorded temperatures; or perhaps these figures were suppressed under the communist regime?

Yours faithfully,
CAROLINE SCALLION,
28 Grange Road, SW13 9RE.
December 18.

Cold snipe

From Mr J. G. Wishart

Sir, Peter Birnie's letter today is right: southerners, confronted by snow, become a race of wimps.

When I lived in Maryland, three inches of snow were required before schools and military bases closed. In Alabama, a heavy frost sufficed.

Yours faithfully,
J. G. WISHART.
Milton House,
Milton of Balgonie,
Glenrothes KY7 6PK.
December 19.

A matter of trust

From Mr Ben Noble

Sir, Having listened to the Prime Minister (report, December 18) and read the Paymaster General's statements (report, December 19) on the question of offshore trusts, and not understanding what these are about, can I ask them what the purpose of these trusts is, apart from avoidance of UK tax?

Sincerely,
BEN NÓBLE.
25 Windermere Avenue, Hawcoat,
Barrow-in-Furness LA14 4LN.
December 19.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

'Hollow gestures' of Irish President

From Mr Robin Bury

Sir, The fact that our new, staunchly Catholic President, Mary McAleese, has taken Holy Communion in the Church of Ireland cathedral in Dublin (News in brief, December 9) struck me, as a member of that Church, as being an act of theatre rather than solemn worship. Presumably her motive was to build another of those bridges she talks about to Protestants in Ireland.

However, the President knows full well that in the Republic of Ireland relations between Protestants and Catholics are good, so this sort of gesture is a hollow one. All it has achieved is to arouse the wrath of some of her own church leaders and divided Catholics on this island.

Perhaps the gesture was intended more for Unionists in Northern Ireland? If so, it was negated by the President's visit to West Belfast on December 5, when she failed to meet Joe Hendron, the former representative of the SDLP, the Catholic constitutional party. Instead, she met with the extreme nationalist, Gerry Adams, whose movement, in the words of

your leading article of December 12 uses violence "not to secure freedom and democracy but stifle it".

Unionists are pragmatic people and judge people by their acts, not their words. On this basis, they know Mary McAleese as a radical nationalist, and dismiss her silly talk of her "love" for them. People in Ireland want lasting peace and stability. They realise that if Mr Hume and Mr Trimble were left to make terms, a settlement would be reached in a matter of days.

Had Mrs McAleese been creative enough to wear a poppy during her inauguration ceremony on Armistice Day to commemorate the many Irish dead in two world wars — she refused to do this (report, November 12) — she would have given out a signal that she disapproves of the extreme republicans who are successfully setting the agenda today, both in London and Dublin. And that would have shown true leadership.

Yours sincerely,
ROBIN BURY,
11 Firgrove,
Military Road, Killiney, Co Dublin.
December 15.

Guardsmen in prison

From Major-General Murray Naylor

Sir, The involvement of Martin Bell, MP, in the campaign to highlight the cases of Scots Guardsmen Fisher and Wright, together with your report and leader today, make it clear that their position is one which must be considered again by Ministers on the grounds of natural justice.

Martin Bell knows the circumstances which soldiers have had to face on the streets of Northern Ireland since 1969 and his judgment and experience in these matters should be heeded.

I visited Jim Fisher and Mark Wright on December 16 in Maghaberry prison in Northern Ireland, where they will be spending their sixth Christmas for a tragic mistake made while they were discussing the operational policy of the UK Government.

They are genuinely remorseful for what happened and look forward to returning to their regiment, but are bewildered by their apparently different treatment from the IRA prisoners released yesterday for Christmas.

It is not good enough for the cases of Fisher and Wright to be treated without reference to their human rights. At this time of peace and goodwill for all men perhaps a gesture of reconciliation is appropriate for all those

who have become victims of the conflict in Northern Ireland, not just those with powerful advocates to speak for them.

Yours etc,
MURRAY NAYLOR
(Chairman of the Guardsmen Fisher and Wright Release Group),
PO Box 16331, London SW16 6ZJ.
December 22.

who have become victims of the conflict in Northern Ireland, not just those with powerful advocates to speak for them.

Yours etc,
MURRAY NAYLOR
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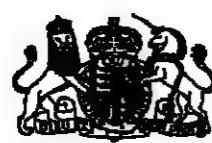
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COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM,
NORFOLK.

December 22: The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron of the British Association for Shooting and Conservation and of the Game Conservancy Trust, this afternoon presented the prizes at the Young Shots' Clay Pigeon Shoot at the Sandringham Shooting Ground.

ST JAMES'S PALACE

December 22: The Prince of Wales, Patron, this morning visited the Cotswold Care Hospice, Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire.

His Royal Highness, Patron, later visited the Sue Ryder Home at Leckhampton Court, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

The Earl of Balfour, 72; Sir Franklyn Bennett, civil servant, 58; Mrs C. Bicknell, former chairman, Victoria Health Authority, 78; Sir Norman Biggs, banker, 90; Lord Blaikie, FSA, 81; Professor Timothy Burt, Master, Hatfield College, Durham University, 46; Mr David Davis, MP, 49; Sir Peter Davis, chief executive, Prudential Corporation, 56; Mr Maurice Denham, actor, 88; Sir Colin Fielding, civil servant, 71; Mr J.R.S. Guinness, chairman, British Nuclear Fuels, 62; Mr Yousef Karshi, photographer, 59; Mr Graham Kelly, chief executive, Football Association, 52.

Professor Peter Lachmann, former president, Royal College of Pathologists, 66; Miss Belinda Lang, actress, 44; Mr Christopher Lawrence, silversmith, 61; Sir Roger Neville, former chief executive, Sun Alliance Insurance Group, 66; Mr Ashley Raeburn, former chairman, Boosey and Hawkes, 79; Herr Helmut Schmidt, former Chancellor, Federal Republic of Germany, 79; the Rev Christopher Turner, former Headmaster, Stowe School, 68; Mr R.S. Unwin, publisher, 72; the Marquess of Winchester, 56.

The Grey Coat Hospital, Westminster

The Queen has agreed to be Patron of the Tercentenary year, 1998, of The Grey Coat Hospital, Westminster. Please phone for further information - 0171 828 5242.

The Royal Society of Chemistry

The following were admitted as Fellows of The Royal Society of Chemistry in December 1997. They are entitled to use the designation Chartered Chemist and the letters CChem FRS.

R.A. Aitken, P.C. Aitken, P.C. Davies, A.C. Dwees, C.D. Fields, M.D. Groatwy, G.W. Kelley, M.R. McCusker, P.R. Norman, J. Oakes, D.N. Rogers, G.S. Russell, M. Sargent, D.J. Schirfitt, C.A. Shand, M.S. Subramanian, A.J. Vella, A.D. Wright.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000.

Anyone who does not stand by the teaching about Christ, but goes beyond it, does not stand by the teaching of Christ by a greater, nor both the Father and the Son. 2 John 10.

BIRTHS

MAGOTY - On December 17th at The Portland Hospital, to Christopher and Lynne, a son, Alexander, 2 lbs 7 ozs.

ATHEMORE - Michael and Rebecca (née Hicks) are delighted with the safe arrival of their first child, a girl, on December 20th at Uinkliford, Sevenoaks.

SARAH - On December 18th at The Portland Hospital, to Michael and Alison, a daughter, Sophie, 7 lbs 10 ozs.

MARINA - On December 19th at The Portland Hospital, to Diana, a beautiful daughter, Angel.

SHREWDEN - On December 19th at The Portland Hospital, to Sharon (née Ridley) and Nicholas, a beautiful daughter, Sophie, 7 lbs 10 ozs.

EMMA - On December 20th, to Joanne and Geoffrey, a son, Christopher, and another little surprise, Emma.

WILLIAMS - On December 4th at The Portland Hospital, to Jane (née Jones) and Michael, a daughter, Sophie, 7 lbs 10 ozs.

MCINTOSH - On December 18th at The Portland Hospital to Sharon (née Ridley) and Nicholas, a son, Nicholas, 7 lbs 10 ozs.

GRIMES - On December 19th at The Portland Hospital, to Emy (née Lovett) and David, a son, Oscar Benjamin, 7 lbs.

HOGG - On December 12th at The Portland Hospital, to Fiona (née Green) and George, a son, Neil Samuel, and a daughter, Georgina, 7 lbs.

NEL - On December 20th at Queen Charlotte's and Chelsea Hospital, to Anna (née Smith) and a son, Thomas Robert Noland.

LISHON - On 17th December to Sheila (née Cook) and Andrew, a daughter, Sophie, a sister for George, Olivia and Susanna.

MURPHY - Dan Murphy died 22/12/97. You are always in our hearts. Ruth, Jonathan and June.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

MURPHY - Dan Murphy died 22/12/97. You are always in our hearts. Ruth, Jonathan and June.



Suzanne Trisk, of Christie's South Kensington, with a rare Gauge 1 mid-1930s Pacific steam locomotive which was expected to sell for £7,000 to £10,000. The locomotive is the largest item in a two-day auction of trains and toys taking place yesterday and today. The smallest is a Japanese Penny Toy train whose coaches are each 2in long

Birthdays today

The Emperor of Japan celebrates his 84th birthday today.

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THE TIMES TUESDAY DECEMBER 23 1997

OBITUARIES

THE MARQUESS OF HERTFORD

The 8th Marquess of Hertford died yesterday aged 67 after a brain tumour. He was born on March 29, 1930.

Like many aristocrats of his generation, the 8th Marquess of Hertford dedicated his life to his corner of British history—Ragley Hall at Alcester in Warwickshire. As his wife said, "Ragley Hall is a life's service."

Ragley is a fine Palladian house built in the 1680s, noted especially for James Gibbs's 70ft Great Hall. Although he had to sell parts of an estate that originally included 8,000 acres of prime farmland, the 8th Marquess managed to pass on the house as an independent concern, "by faith and love" (as the family motto urges) — but only just. The house very nearly became one more victim of the inheritance-tax trap which stripped many families of the means to maintain their properties. In a letter to *The Times*, the marquess protested at the prevailing postwar antipathy to the idea of passing on an inheritance for one's children to improve: "I do not understand, and I deeply resent, the fact that no Conservative politician now attempts to defend the interests of the next generation."

Hugh Edward Conway Seymour was the son of Brigadier-General Lord Henry Charles Seymour, the second son of the 6th Marquess. His mother was Lady Helen Frances Grosvenor, daughter of the Duke of Westminster.

After Eton and the Grenadier Guards, he succeeded his uncle in 1940, and found that he had inherited a costly asset. Ragley Hall has 80, or 100, or 115 rooms — depending whom you believe — and throughout the war it was used as a hospital. The family was confined to small quarters, where Lady Helen kept a bathful of hand-grenades as a last recourse against invading Germans. As a result, during the 1950s the marquess spent a great deal of time repairing the fabric of the house, which had not been fully occupied since 1912.

In 1956 he married the Contesse Louise de Caraman Chimay, and they set about putting the house in order so as to open it to the public (initially at half-a-crown a time). They found gorgeous drapery rotting on the walls and beautiful furniture stacked in back rooms. Also in need of upkeep were 24 acres of garden, a maze, a park with a cricket pitch and a lake, a nature trail and an adventure wood. The marquess wrote a guidebook himself, and the Hall opened to the public in the summer of 1958. So beguiling are the house and its setting that 40,000 people visited in the first few months, even though the peacocks would eat the pinks.

Anxious that this new source of income be maintained, Lord Hertford began looking for new attractions. In France on honeymoon he and his wife had been impressed with a son et lumière display, and this was duly tried at Ragley, with a commentary spoken by Michael Redgrave. Horse trials and water-skiing dis-



plays were held on the estate, and later attractions at the house were to include a display of crowns and jewels labelled as "authentic replicas".

The marquess's principal interest for much of his life was necessarily in managing the estate, but he also enjoyed some other ancestral perks. One of his forebears had bought the 13th-century Conway Castle from Charles I, and when the castle was subsequently rented in the 19th century it was on condition that the Marquess of Hertford be given "a dish of fish... whenever he passes through the town". Accordingly, Lord Hertford made a point of passing through, and was presented with a Sib salmon by the mayor.

Despite the enormous popularity of country-house visiting, by the mid-1960s he was "gradually coming round" to offering the family seat to the National Trust. But then in June 1964 he dropped a bombshell: "Ragley Hall to be demolished" reported *The Times*: "It is a dreadful decision, but a final one. The house will remain open until the end of September. During the winter preparations will begin to pull it down and build a smaller house." At the time the house would have needed little pulling: it was all

but falling down. The marquess had spent more than £100,000 on it in the previous few years, so depiting the family fortunes, investments, land, family silver and even some of his wife's jewellery had been sold to keep the house going. The National Trust said that it would only take the house if it came with a lump sum, which the family simply did not have. "We have failed," said the marquess. "If we go on we shall one day be ruined. At the end of my life I would hand to my son a large, beautiful house with no money or land to support it. I think that would be wrong."

Fortunately, the outcry had an upshot.

The Historic Buildings Council authorised grants of £18,000, which were followed by further public money, and the marquess was persuaded that the cause was not lost. In the spirit of his ancestors, he commissioned a *trompe l'oeil* mural for the south staircase from Graham Rust, the heir (to put it politely) of the artist and mural-painter Rex Whistler. Called *The Temptation*, and suggested by the Palladian Villa Masser at Vicenza, the mural took 14 years in all (1969-83), and was said to be the largest in England. It contains 24 friends and members of the family, the Marquess.

RICHARD WARWICK

Richard Warwick, actor, died of AIDS on December 16 aged 52. He was born on April 23, 1945.

ONE of the most attractive and graceful young actors of his generation, Richard Warwick showed in his later performances that he could pack a most emotional punch. The delightful *jeune premier* had his last theatre success playing a bereaved father in Keith Baxter's production of Patrick Hamilton's *Rope*, which moved from the Minerva Theatre in Chichester to the West End. In a play where the charm of the two young murderers looked dangerously like claiming the sympathy of the audience, his naked, keenly felt sense of loss turned them around to bring home the odiousness of the crime.

Born Richard Winter (he changed his name to avoid confusion with another

equity member), Warwick began life in Meopham, Kent, the third of four sons of an aeronautical engineer who was part of the Barnes Wallis team. The family moved to Tiverton in Gloucestershire when he was young, and he was educated at Dean Close School, Cheltenham, and later at RADA.

In the cinema he had an early eye-catching role alongside Malcolm McDowell and David Wood, "the schoolboy stars" of Lindsay Anderson's controversial *If*. In Zeffirelli's *Romeo and Juliet* he played one of the young servants who set off the brawl between the Montagues and Capulets with the line "I bite my thumb at you" wrangle. Zeffirelli later cast him as an officer in Mel Gibson's *Hamlet* and as Rochester's servant in *Jane Eyre*. Dick Lester engaged him for *The Bed Sitting Room*.

The success of his performance in the

including the UFO-spotted Lady Buchanan-Jardine, who points at the sky but fails to interest even a fuscous spaniel. Lord Hertford himself appears twice, once as naked Neptune sitting in a large shell. The odd-job man who walked in while he was posing was most affronted.

In 1968 the marquess was given £40,000 by the Ministry of Housing for improvements to the public areas of the house. He began with new plumbing and wiring, lest the rooms be flooded or burnt down. The need was pressing enough for as he said, "every time we plug the vacuum in, everything gets red hot".

The marquess, who was appointed Deputy Lieutenant of Warwickshire in 1959, was for some years a member of the historic houses committee of the British Tourist Authority, and then president of the West Midlands Tourist Board. In particular, he successfully campaigned against the building of a motorway link road across his land. "I don't believe tourists will continue coming to England just to see motorways — which they can see at home," he said. On the other hand, he began quarrying for sand and gravel.

During the general election of 1970, he caused a stir as an active Tory peer, by urging Conservatives in Enoch Powell's constituency to vote Labour, because he abhorred and was appalled by Powell's attitude to immigration.

By the end of the 1970s 116,000 visitors were coming to the house, but they were spending only 9p a head. And there were occasional problems of disappearing artefacts — a clock, tables, silver — during opening hours or from the commercial dinners in the Great Hall. Fourteen engraved sherry glasses were purloined in 1985 by visiting Americans, but recovered in the London Hilton.

History at Ragley Hall goes back well before the 17th century, for Alcester was once a Roman settlement. Roman remains on Hertford's land were scheduled as an ancient monument in 1962, and he was awarded £100,000 compensation, but in 1985 two fields were ploughed up. Remains just below the surface were inadvertently damaged, and the marquess was fined £4,000 after a prosecution brought by English Heritage.

During the 1990s the marquess and his wife became estranged, and she moved to a William and Mary cottage on the estate.

Earlier this year, the marquess publicly disagreed with William Hague about the Conservative Party's abandonment of the hereditary principle, when he argued pragmatically that the peers' experience played a valuable part in the legislature. "If, together with a peerage, you have inherited a large county estate, you have to learn a lot about farming, forestry, maintenance of houses and conversion of farm buildings," he said. "Many of us have learnt a lot about the tourist trade."

He is survived by his wife and their son and three daughters. His son, the Earl of Yarborough, who took over Ragley Hall in 1991, succeeded to the title as the 9th Marquess.

Equity member, Warwick began life in Meopham, Kent, the third of four sons of an aeronautical engineer who was part of the Barnes Wallis team. The family moved to Tiverton in Gloucestershire when he was young, and he was educated at Dean Close School, Cheltenham, and later at RADA.

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The success of his performance in the

title role in Andrew Sinclair's *The Breaking of Bumbo* was undermined by movie distribution difficulties. He made two films with Derek Jarman, *The Tempest* and, more significantly, *Sebastian*. Jarman's arresting account of the saint's martyrdom, filmed in Latin.

On the stage he was at times a member of the National Theatre, Young Vic and Cambridge Theatre Companies. He appeared with Laurence Olivier and Geraldine McEwan in *The Dance of Death*, as Horatio in *Hamlet* and as Charles Surface in *The School for Scandal* with the Cambridge Theatre Company.

One of his most powerful theatrical performances was as the son in Terence Rattigan's *In Praise of Love*, a double bill of two one-act plays, *Before Dawn* and *After Lydia*, with Donald Sinden and Jean Greenwood. When Rex Harrison starred in an extended version of the latter play, Rattigan was disappointed by the American actor in Warwick's role. And Warwick was not Warwick for the part; he could not be released.

On television Warwick acted with a succession of leading ladies — Judy Dench (*A Fine Romance*), Joanna Lumley, Jane Asher and Wendy Craig (*I Love You, Mrs Patterson*) — all of whom adored him. A memorable early performance as Nicky Lancaster opposite Margaret Leighton in Noel Coward's *The Vortex* (1960) earned him the highest praise from the author, about whom he was as clear-eyed as he often was in his assessment of directors. "Noel doesn't understand anything about drugs," he said. "It's just a waste of time for Warwick for the part; he could not be released.

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THE TIMES TODAY

TUESDAY DECEMBER 23 1997

NEWS

Labour 'defender of welfare state'

Gordon Brown went on the offensive against critics of Labour's welfare reforms, declaring that the "true defenders of the welfare state are those who are prepared to reform it".

In an interview with *The Times*, the Chancellor said that the war against poverty could only be won by modernisers, but he sought to reassure old Labour by promising that change would be carried out sensitively. There would be no "indiscriminate slash and burn exercise".

Page 1

Disabled in Downing St paint protest

Twelve severely disabled people protesting against possible cuts in benefits were arrested after they spattered Downing Street with red paint, handcuffed themselves to the gates and accused Tony Blair of treating them as easy targets. They were released after being given formal warnings.

Page 1

BSE inquiry

Jack Cunningham announced a one-off £85 million emergency package for beef farmers and a year-long inquiry into the BSE crisis. He also paved the way for many farmers to leave the land.

Pages 1, 4

Fayed hopeful

Mohamed Al Fayed's application to become a British citizen is to be reconsidered. The Home Secretary is to abandon a challenge to a Court of Appeal ruling that the Conservative Government unlawfully rejected applications from the Harrods owner and his brother.

Pages 1, 2

Coal cuts

Thousands of retired miners and widows will receive less free coal from April. The Industry Department has told them that entitlements must be "rebalanced" to keep in line with European law.

Page 1

Leader's message

William Hague has delivered his Christmas broadcast to the Tory faithful with a promise of the biggest shake-up of the party in more than 100 years.

Page 2

Family feud

A teenager whose parents took him to court to keep him out of the family home after he threatened them will spend Christmas in a homeless shelter. He was sentenced to six months' probation for criminal damage.

Page 3

Tables turned

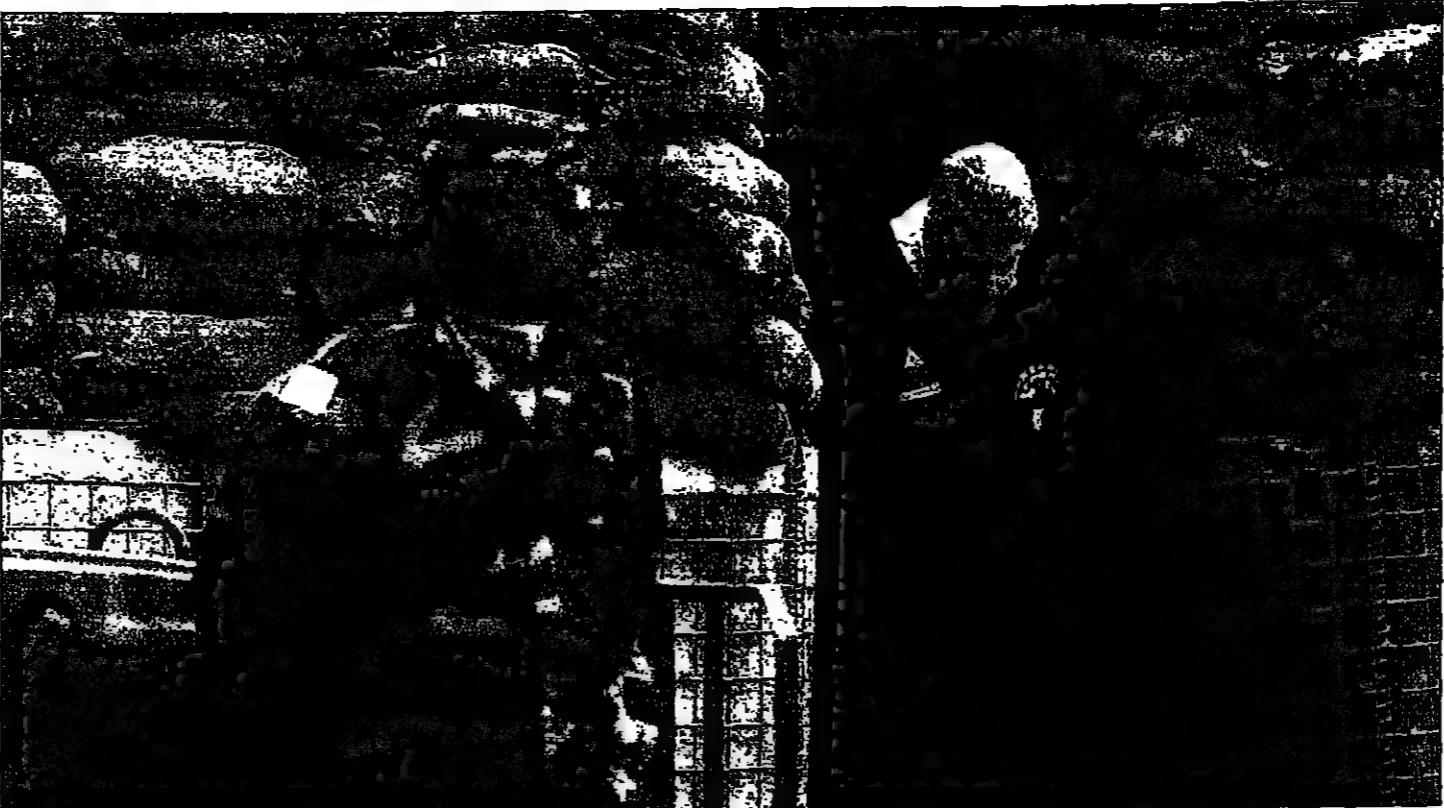
Middle-class belt-tightening is taking its toll on French restaurants, leaving them trailing behind those in Britain. A gastronomic survey in *Le Monde* concludes: "London explodes, Paris sleeps".

Page 13

Winning streak for Casino the swan

A Bewick's swan called Casino has set a record by returning to Britain for the 27th year. Casino has outlived two mates, Royale and Punter, and produced 32 cygnets — four of whom are spending Christmas with her at Slimbridge. Niven, Gambler and Dock arrived first while Croupier looked after their mother on the flight from Siberia.

Page 9



President Clinton leaving a bunker near Tuzla during a visit to Bosnia where he is seen as the country's saviour. Report, page 11

BUSINESS

Diamonds: Turmoil in the Far East is having a disastrous impact on diamond sales, it emerged as the South African group De Beers moved to position itself as an independent company.

Page 21

Pioneer boy dies: Stephen Hollis, who became Britain's youngest heart and lung transplant patient seven years ago, has died aged ten.

Page 7

Housing: Confidence in the housing market has fallen sharply in the South but remains at its peak in the North.

Page 21

Luxury goods: The Swiss conglomerate Richemont is to press ahead with plans to take full control of Vérande, the luxury goods group.

Page 21

Markets: The FT-SE 100 Index fell 20 points to close at 5018.2. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 104.5 to 104.7 after a fall from \$1.6690 to \$1.6629 but a rise from DM2.9518 to DM2.9605.

Page 24

Scargill out: Arthur Scargill is set to be dismissed as a trustee of two miners' welfare organisations after the Charity Commission found him guilty of misconduct over an £800,000 cash transfer.

Page 6

Football: Jurgen Klinsmann returned to ease Tottenham Hotspur's Premiership problems in a £175,000 loan deal, two and a half years after his acrimonious departure.

Page 40

Sailing: The Swedish yacht *EF Language* took the lead in the Whitbread Round the World Race after winning the third leg from Fremantle to Sydney.

Page 37

Equestrianism: Peter Charles, of Ireland, brought the Olympia showjumping championships to a stirring conclusion with a victory on Dolly.

Page 37

Racing: Graham Bradley looks forward to resuming his partnership with Suny Bay in the King George VI Chase at Kempton Park on Boxing Day.

Page 33

ARTS

Unholy babies: True to its tradition of resurrecting Victorian burlesque pantomime, the Players' Theatre unveils a *Macbeth*-inspired *Babes in the Wood*.

Page 28

Holy mother: A Renaissance *Madonna and Child* by Sebastiano del Piombo is on view after its purchase by the Fitzwilliam Museum, revealing disturbing symbolism.

Page 29

Music mission: How traumatised Bosnian children persuaded Luciano Pavarotti to overcome his dislike of helicopters and see his dream come true.

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Music marathon: The American conductor James Levine rounded off his Philharmonia concerts with a masterful performance of Mahler's Eighth Symphony.

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Fest fears: For children with eating disorders, Christmas is a difficult time. But parents can help them to cope.

Page 14

Hope for Dorah: Generous readers are bringing hope to Dorah, the brave South African baby who died of cancer.

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Healthy Christmas: Dr Thomas Stratford on how to avoid post-Christmas problems.

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Cheat lines: Most men are dreadful at approaching women. But a study of female body language can save them from flirting with disaster.

Page 15

SPORT

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Page 15

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

INTERFACE

The weekly IT section finds modern technology bringing new hope for peace on Earth

HOMES

Why this is a good time to think about buying a chalet in a French snow resort

THE PAPERS

The IMF and the World Bank are trying to dictate policy to Russia, and in this light it is not surprising that the Communists like it to a regime of occupation. The Kremlin, the Russian Government and bureaucrats are not ready for democracy. They are lackeys temporarily holding the reins of power

—Nezavisimaya Gazeta

OUTDOORS

Festive planners: For small businesses specialising in Christmas products, the trick is to spread the work through the year.

Page 30

THE PAPER

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—Nezavisimaya Gazeta

LETTERS

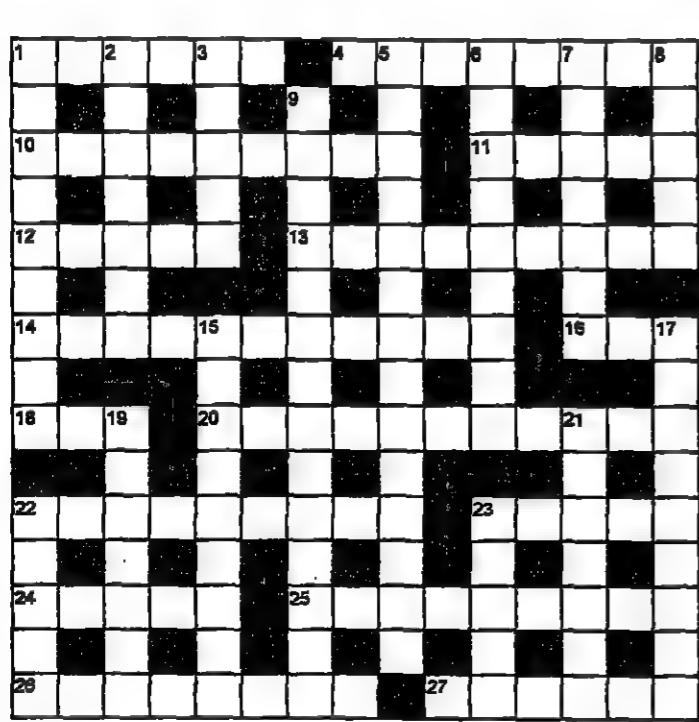
The Marquess of Hertford, landowner; Bruce Woodcock, boxer; Richard Warwick, actor... Page 19

OBITUARIES

Labour's economic conflicts; Irish President; Messiah message; Turkey and Cyprus; Jacob of Ancona; Moscow temperatures; Rudolph's role; Christmas stocking mouse

Page 17

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,670



ACROSS

- 1 Perform in pantomime horse, perhaps? That creates interest (6).
- 4 Bob turns awkward, being obstinate (8).
- 5 Plenty of cake available during a ball (9).
- 11 Employment exchange (5).
- 12 Combination of metals used in weapon (5).
- 13 Formerly agreeing with great healer (2,3,4).
- 14 Complaint that's not strictly for the birds? (11).
- 16 Bow found in Africa, oddly (3).
- 18 Toy revolver (3).
- 20 Progress is limited here, in high-risk locality? (5-2-4).
- 22 Quick to take action (9).
- 23 Work of monumental stupidity? (5).
- 24 One breaks a little back bone (5).
- 25 Like a high-flier, able to take long view? (5-4).
- 26 Change at Naples for Nice (8).
- 27 Island's anchorage in the sound (6).
- 28 Dangerous situation that frightened buccaneer to death (5,4).
- 29 He was bound to begin (but not finish) his performance (7).
- 30 House deposit (5).
- 31 Novel series adapted for the stage say (3,7).
- 32 Uses soft soap, as fatty stuff's increased in price (7,2).
- 33 Like an egg, it's blown (7).
- 34 Annie celebrates having this other girl in the family (5).
- 35 The deep South? (9,5).
- 36 Supported by runners, they turn up at the front (9).
- 37 Cautious bids in order — many found it hard to pass (9).
- 38 River put on list suitable for drinking (7).
- 39 As result of special deal, English railway passed through another station (7).
- 40 Drunk started smoking (3,2).
- 41 Hard worker on land turning up in novel (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,669

FLOURISHING PAL
I R O W D U R A
T U R N S T I L E S T O R M
I E N A H S P
C A S C A D E S T E N C I L
U I T H R R I
R I D G E E N L I S T I N G
J E R O B H
A N T I P O D E S P L E A T
I E O T O E
L U R K I N G C O M P E E R
M M N R A P M
E D I C T A M U S E M E N T
N N E I S I N A
T I E R A N G E F I N D E R

Times Two Crossword, page 40

AA INFORMATION

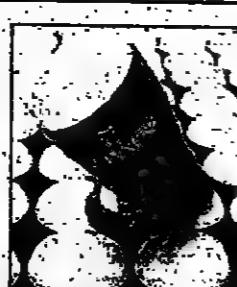
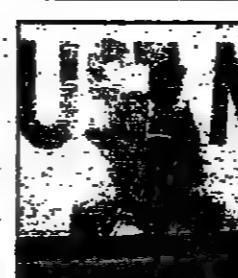
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TODAYBUSINESS
Test your
knowledge in
our City quiz
PAGE 25

LAW

Why are the
media so hard
on lawyers?
PAGE 31

SPORT

Klinsmann makes
hero's return to
White Hart Lane
PAGES 33-40TELEVISION
AND
RADIO
PAGES
38, 39

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY DECEMBER 23 1997

Factors
up for
sale by
Lloyds
TSBBy RICHARD MILES
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

LLOYDS TSB has hung a "for sale" sign on International Factors, its subsidiary and one of the country's leading discount and factoring groups.

Bank of New York, which runs a leading commercial finance operation in North America, has been widely tipped as the buyer after its acquisition of two smaller UK factoring businesses during the summer.

International Factors, based in Brighton and employing about 500 people, is understood to be the biggest of the four factoring and discounting businesses within the Lloyds TSB fold.

In spite of its size, senior managers at the bank are believed to favour a second factoring subsidiary, Alex Lawrie, because they feel the firm has a superior client list and a better reputation. As a result, they have decided to sell International Factors.

Meanwhile, another subsidiary, TSB Factors, is being absorbed within the fourth factoring business, TSB Commercial Finance, which specializes in invoice discounting, a practice increasingly used to fund corporate expansion, management buyouts and buy-ins.

Bank of New York declined to comment yesterday on its interest in International Factors, but a spokesman said the bank had made little secret of its desire to expand its European operations.

City analysts said the disposal of International Factors made clear sense for Lloyds TSB, as the group continues to seek to strip out non-core businesses and eliminate any duplication caused by the merger of the two banks.

In an earlier housekeeping exercise in September, Lloyds TSB sold Business Technology Finance, an office equipment leasing subsidiary, to Newcourt Credit of Canada for £235 million, making a clear profit of £40 million on the deal.

The £40 billion-a-year factoring and discounting market is dominated by the subsidiaries of three high street banks: Alex Lawrie International Factors, Midland Bank's Griffin and Natwest's Lombard. The Factors and Discounters Association says the market has grown nearly 20 per cent per annum in recent years.



Rupert aware of Asian dangers

RICHEMONT, the Swiss conglomerate controlled by the Rupert family of South Africa, is to press ahead with plans to take full control of Vendôme, the luxury goods group, despite the worsening Asian financial crisis.

Vendôme, which is already 70 per cent owned by Richemont, is heavily dependent on the Japanese and Far Eastern markets for sales of its prestige brands such as Cartier, Alfred Dunhill and Piaget, and its shares have been buffeted by the recent turmoil. The shares fell from a high this year of 525p to a low of 325p before their recent rally.

Last month, Richemont announced that it was in talks over a £1.04 billion bid to buy out the minority shareholders in Vendôme, but gave warning at the time that it might not proceed in the event of any further collapse in world markets.

Yesterday, the boards of the two groups unveiled a recommended offer that puts a total value of £3.45 billion on Vendôme, which is chaired by Joseph Kanoui. Changes to the terms set out in November provide a loan note alternative to the 495p-a-share cash offer, and a special interim dividend of 5p, payable on completion, probably in April.

The board of independent directors, which is headed by Lord Douro, deputy chairman of Vendôme, and was set up to consider the offer on behalf of minority shareholders, also recommended the bid.

The independent directors, who were advised by Schroders, said they had recommended the offer after taking account of "the increasingly uncertain environment in which Vendôme operates and the fact that many of the brands would require significant investment over the next few years". Mr Rupert said investment plans would be decided in the new year.

Vendôme became a separately listed company in 1993, when Richemont reorganized its tobacco and luxury goods portfolio. Richemont, which is quoted in Switzerland, with a secondary listing on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, has a two-thirds interest in Rothmans International and a 15 per cent stake in Canal Plus, the French TV group.

Fair East worries, page 22
Commentary, page 23

Lord Douro, left, and Joseph Kanoui believe the bid is right for shareholders

De Beers plans to go it alone

By JON ASHWORTH

TURMOIL in the Far East is having a disastrous impact on diamond sales, it emerged yesterday as De Beers from January 1. Describing 1997 as a "roller-coaster of a year", Mr Raffe said the CSO would restrict the flow of uncut gems in an attempt to maintain prices.

Much depends on what happens in Japan, which speaks for about 25 per cent of world diamond consumption, compared with America's 35 per cent. Economic problems, coupled with a weakening of the yen against the dollar (De Beers' prices in dollars in Japan are 20 per cent per annum in recent years.

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in De Beers, which will be a free-standing organisation.

Anglo is selling its direct shareholding in De Beers to Anglo American Investment Trust (Anamint). It will hold 67 per cent in Anamint, which will in turn hold 34 per cent in De Beers and 31 per cent in Centenary, the company's Swiss-registered offshoot. De Beers will remain the largest shareholder in Anglo.

Julian Oglivie Thompson, the Anglo chairman, said the move made strategic sense, and was in line with shareholders' wishes.

Tempus, page 24

Formula One gets Europe deadline

By JASON NISSE

KAREL VAN MIERT, the European Competition Commissioner, has given the Formula One motor racing industry three weeks to change its financial arrangements or face legal proceedings.

A spokesman said the EU had serious doubts that various arrangements between Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA), which runs the sport, and Formula One Holdings, the company run by Bernie Ecclestone, complied with European competition law.

The action throws into doubt Mr Ecclestone's attempts to float Formula One, which was supposed to come to market in July with a £1.5 billion price tag but has yet to set a formal flotation date. Mr Ecclestone — whose £1 million gift to the

South hit by housing slowdown

By SUSAN EMMETT

CONFIDENCE in the housing market has fallen sharply in the South but remains at its peak in the North, according to a report published today by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS).

Figures for the three months to the end of November show that the slowdown is not just a pre-Christmas lull. The number of surveyors reporting a rise in prices has more than halved nationally since this time last year as the cumulative effect of interest rate rises begins to bite.

However, in contrast to the usual picture, the slowdown has hit the South hardest, with the North stable. London is the only exception, with increasing numbers of surveyors still reporting rising prices.

Professionals to face one-off tax

By JON ASHWORTH

LAWYERS, accountants, and other professionals face paying up to £200 million in a one-off tax, under controversial changes proposed by the Government.

The changes, described as tantamount to a windfall tax on professional firms, were described as "probably the worst Christmas present" the Government could have come up with. The Inland Revenue insisted the move was about "levelling the playing field" and ensuring that everyone was taxed on the same basis.

The Government is to withdraw the "cash basis" practices available to partnerships, giving rise to a "catch-up charge" in 1998-99. Firms which account on the basis of cash received or bills paid, will

have to factor in work in progress and outstanding bills. The charge could total £100 million to £200 million.

Dawn Primarolo, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, said the "cash basis" gave some firms an unfair advantage. The change would "level the playing field" for all businesses and correct an anomaly for which there is no justification".

Denise Catterall, tax partner in Coopers & Lybrand, said:

"This is probably the worst Christmas present that partners in professional practice could have been given by the Government. In a way, it is not dissimilar to a windfall tax."

Partners face significant bills. Comments are invited by February 14.

Three in running to replace Bishop at Channel 4

By RAYMOND SNODDY
MEDIA EDITOR

THE contest to replace Sir Michael Bishop as chairman of Channel 4 has come down to a race between Vanni Treves, the Italian-born business lawyer, and Sir Colin Southgate, chairman of EMI, the international music group.

The third person on the shortlist is Howard Dyer, who is non-executive chairman of Hamleys, the toy retailer, executive chairman of Ascot Holdings and non-executive chairman of New Look, the fashion house.

The successor to Sir Michael, who runs British Midland Airways, is expected to be announced in January.

Mr Treves, 57, is the senior partner of the City law firm Macfarlanes. His clients include John Paul Getty II and the family trusts of Richard Branson. He is a governor of London Business School, leads fund-raising for the National Portrait Gallery and chairs three quoted companies.

The favourite is probably Sir Colin, who has made no secret of his desire for the job. His experience in the music industry with its reliance on intellectual property rights and the rapid move towards digital technology would help, as would his previous experience with commercial television, when Thorn EMI owned Thames Television.

Continuing heavyweight business experience would be a help at Channel 4, which faces a number of tough business decisions next year — including the launching of new digital terrestrial channels.

There have been reports that Sir Colin's name may also be in the frame for the chairmanship of the Royal Opera House and if both were available it is not clear which he would chose.

BUSINESS TODAY

	STOCK MARKET	CHANGE
FTSE 100	5018.2	(-2.0)
Yield	3.22%	
FTSE All share	1478.40	(-1.18)
Mixed	545.49	(-15.49)
New York	7768.99	(+12.70)*
S&P Composite	946.37	(-2.19)*

	CITY INDEX	CHANGE
Federal Funds	5.75%	(5.74%)
Long Bond	102.97	(0.00%)
Yield	5.90%	(5.92%)

	LONDON MONEY	CHANGE
3-month Interbank	7.4%	(7.4%)
Life long gilt future (Mar)	121%	(121%)

	INTERBANK	CHANGE
New York	1.8880*	(1.8708)
London	1.8833	(1.8885)
DM	2.9516	(2.9513)
FF	9.5113	(9.5080)
SPF	2.2009	(2.2045)
Yen	130.28	(129.40)
E Index	104.7	(104.5)

* denotes midday trading price

Slowdown

Consumer spending slowed sharply in the third quarter, contributing to a small downward revision to overall growth in the period, according to the Office for National Statistics.

Page 22, Commentary 23

Nursing homes

BUPA, the medical insurance group, is about to become Britain's biggest nursing home operator after winning control of Care First yesterday with an increased bid of £273 million.

Page 23

DIRECT LINE

INSTANT ACCESS

ACCOUNT

Revised interest rates effective from 1st January 1998.

BALANCE	NEW INTEREST RATES	
	PAID ANNUALLY (GROSS %)	PAID MONTHLY (GROSS %)
£1-£4,999	5.80	5.65
£5,000-£9,999	6.15	5.98
£10,000-£24,999	7.00	6.79
£25,000-£49,999	7.05	6.83
£50,000-£99,999	7.15	6.93
£100,000+	7.25	7.02



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Warning at biotech business

By PAUL DURMAN

BIOCOMPATIBLES International, the biotechnology company whose shares slumped when it failed to secure a deal with Johnson & Johnson, has given warning that its sales are being held back by its attempts to find alternative distribution, and it is heading for an increased second-half loss.

The company is relying on national distributors to market its stents, the miniature devices used to hold open blood vessels. However, Alistair Taylor, chief executive, says these local firms are reluctant to promote the product because they expect Biocompatibles to appoint a large international distribution partner.

Stent sales grew but overall sales will not meet directors' forecasts. Biocompatibles said its second-half loss will exceed the £11.4 million it lost in the six months to June.

The company said it recently began a second round of negotiations with potential partners for its stents and other cardiovascular devices. Mr Taylor said they include Johnson & Johnson, which remains interested in Biocompatibles' body-friendly medical coating, known as PC. The shares fell 17½ p to 460p. They were £14.20 before the Johnson & Johnson deal fell apart in September.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buy	Bank Sell
Australia \$	2.64	2.47
Austria Sch	21.81	20.15
Belgium Fr	64.22	60.28
Canada \$	1.28	1.21
Cape Verde	0.811	0.802
Denmark Kr	11.86	10.97
Finland Mark	9.50	8.75
France F	10.24	9.50
Germany DM	3.12	2.98
Greece Dr	492	483
Hong Kong \$	13.71	12.81
Iceland Kr	1.11	1.01
Ireland £	1.20	1.11
Irael Shek	0.27	0.26
Italy Lira	3077	2842
Japan Yen	261.40	244.10
Malta	0.683	0.624
Netherlands Gld	3.528	3.290
New Zealand \$	3.88	2.78
Norway Kr	2.75	1.71
Portugal Esc	315.03	293.00
S Africa Rd	8.77	7.82
Solomon Is	26.71	24.93
Spain Cr	13.73	12.93
Switzerland Fr	2.54	2.33
Turkey Lira	340.02	321.64
USA \$	1.08	1.02

Rates for small denominations. Rates only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveler's cheques. Rates at close of trading yesterday.

Anglian Water Plc
wishes everyone
a very
Merry Christmas
and a
Prosperous New Year

May we take this opportunity to tell our friends
that, once again this year, we are not sending Christmas cards.
Instead, we're making donations to
several local children's charities and hospices.

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Nikkei falls below 15,000 as Far East worries continue

By JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS EDITOR

ASIAN markets suffered another dismal session after four countries saw their sovereign debt downgraded by Moody's Investors Service, the international credit rating agency.

It said that its move was in response to worries about South Korea's short-term foreign currency financing needs, concern about the ability of Indonesia's corporate sector's ability to meet its foreign debt obligations and Malaysia's

foreign currency ceiling for bonds and confirmed the ceiling for bank deposits.

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unremitting diet of bad news depressed Asian currencies and stock markets. In Japan, the Nikkei 225 index

vulnerability to regional financial troubles. Moody's also lowered the ratings on 20 South Korean banks and on some of the country's largest firms. All were lowered to Ba1, one level above junk bonds.

The unremitting diet of bad news depressed Asian currencies and stock markets. In Japan, the Nikkei 225 index

closed below 15,000 for the first time in more than two years. The index lost 515.49 points, to close at 14,799.40.

The negative impact on the Japanese economy of trouble in its key regional market was highlighted by Toyota that it was halting production at its two car plants in the

Philippines for a month to reduce stocks. Car sales in the Philippines have fallen 12.5 per cent over the past year.

In Seoul, the Korean stock exchange suspended trading in the shares of four companies because of rumours that they were about to default on their debts.

Today, the Finance Ministry is opening up the short-term bond market to foreign investment, but conditions could hardly be worse. Yields on three-month corporate bonds closed at 30 per cent yesterday, but still did not attract any buyers.

Wall Street shrugged off Asia's latest troubles, bouncing by more than 80 points in initial trading as traders jumped into the market again after Friday's losses of 90 points. In London, the FTSE 100 index lost 2.0 points, to close at 5,018.2.

Commentary, page 23

Consumer spending slows

CONSUMER spending slowed sharply in the third quarter, contributing to a small downward revision to overall growth in the period, according to the Office for National Statistics.

Consumer spending grew 0.7 per cent in the three months from July to September, compared with 1.6 per cent in the second quarter.

City economists said that some of this slowdown could be attributed to mourning for Diana, Princess of Wales.

Nevertheless, this period also saw a £6 billion payout by the Woolwich Building Society. Simon Briscoe, economist at Nikko Europe, said that the figures proved that windfalls were being saved, not spent.

Overall gross domestic product grew 0.8 per cent in the third quarter, revised down from 0.9 per cent.

Separate figures showed that Britain recorded a current account surplus of £473 million in the third quarter, down from a surplus of £1.44 billion in the second.

Commentary, page 23

Burford in Mayfair acquisition

By CARL MORTISHED

BURFORD HOLDINGS has acquired a large property in Mayfair for almost £100 million. The property group, which recently suffered the departure of Nick Lesau, its high-profile chief executive, has acquired Mayfair Place, an island block bounded by Stratton Street and Berkeley Street, comprising two buildings totalling 256,000 sq ft.

Burford is paying Norwich Union £99.75 million for the property, which generates £7.41 million in rents, equating to a yield of 7.4 per cent. John Andersen, Burford's new chief executive, said: "We are buying Mayfair off low rents at a time when prime office rents in the West End are now £50 per sq ft and investment yields are as low as 5 per cent."

Meanwhile, Greycourt is selling a half share in 1 Great St Helens, its City office development to Scottish Life in a property swap involving the acquisition by Greycourt of the insurer's office and retail investment at 36 Poultry. Current market rents value Great St Helens at £30-40 million.

Control of Charterhouse will pass to CCF in the first quarter of 1998. No price was disclosed, but sources said that between £200 million and



Michael Hepher should see "business as usual" at Charterhouse after the change

Charterhouse stake sold

BHF-BANK of Germany is selling its 50 per cent share in Charterhouse, the UK merchant bank to Credit Commercial de France (CCF), holder of the other half stake (Richard Miles writes).

Control of Charterhouse will pass to CCF in the first quarter of 1998. No price was disclosed, but sources said that between £200 million and

£250 million would be paid for the holding.

A spokesman for BHF-Bank said the disposal stemmed from a strategic review initiated by Ernst Kruse after his appointment as chief executive officer in March.

The sale, plus the earlier disposal of a large stake in Zivnostenska, a Czech bank, would leave BHF free to

concentrate on its investment banking operations in Frankfurt, said the spokesman.

CCF emphasised that it would be "business as usual" at Charterhouse and said it had no plans to put the company up for sale.

Charterhouse, led by Michael Hepher, reported a pre-tax profit of £40.4 million in 1996 and has assets of £1.9 billion.

Chasing buyout deals. The success of the MBO market is generating its own momentum, sucking in international investors looking for higher-yielding returns for their money than can be found in the major stock markets.

KPMG said the prices being paid were not unreasonable.

Faced with increasing nervousness in the financial markets, MBO investments in 1998 are likely to settle on quality, resulting in fewer but larger "mega-deals".

Unipoly was the largest MBO, followed by General Healthcare Group (£54 million) and Welcome Break (£47 million). Other big deals involved CE Heath, Marchpole Group and Birmingham International Airport Venture capital houses are thought to have more than £50 billion available for acquisitions in the UK and mainland Europe.

The number of larger MBOs and management buyouts reached a peak of 130 this year, compared with 114 in 1996. The final quarter of 1997 saw 25 deals worth £2 billion, led by Unipoly (£620 million), Gal Bingo Halls (£300 million) and Crystal International Travel Group (£150 million). MBOs were valued at £55 million on average.

The value of larger (£10 million-plus) MBOs and MBIs peaked at £7.4 billion in 1997, up 20 per cent on 1996.

KPMG expects the value to rise further in 1998.

Mike Stevens, head of MBO Services at KPMG Corporate Finance, said: "Never before

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Unipoly was the largest MBO, followed by General Healthcare Group (£54 million) and Welcome Break (£47 million). Other big deals involved

Bernie Ecclestone has had an eventful 1997. The boss of Formula 1 gave the Labour Party £1 million — only to have it returned in a cheque which he apparently hasn't cashed. He saw some of the leading players in his sport accused of manslaughter over the death of the former world champion, Ayrton Senna — only for them to be exonerated. And he attempted to float the company that runs the sport with a £1.5 billion price tag — only for the float to be postponed indefinitely. Now he will start 1998 looking horns with Karel van Miert, the dreaded European Union competition commissioner. In a battle between the diminutive former motorcycle mechanic from Suffolk and the left wing Flemish farmer's son, there can only be one winner. This time, you wouldn't put your money on Bernie.

Van Miert yesterday said the EC had decided the sport was breaching competition law — something that many had suspected, not least Van Miert. The problem is something that goes to the core both of how the sport is run and how Ecclestone created a business with paid him £54 million last year. Van Miert thinks there is too cosy a relationship between Ecclestone's Formula One Holdings — the company he wants to float — and the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA), which runs the sport. Specifically he is

unhappy about Ecclestone's role within the constitution of the FIA — which Van Miert points out is run by Ecclestone's former legal adviser, Max Mosley. Meanwhile the FIA has given Ecclestone a contract to exploit all the media rights to Formula 1 until the year 2010 as part of a deal in which the duo co-operate to promote the sport as the premier motor racing championship in the world and the FIA maintains a strict rulebook to keep the racing teams in line. Van Miert has given Ecclestone and Mosley three weeks to respond or else he will take action against them.

Once Van Miert starts looking at the deals surrounding sport, he might never stop. Until BSkyB upped the ante on the price of live coverage of football in the UK, the amount most European broadcasters paid for filling up their schedules with sport was pitiful. In some cases they still are. And all around Europe there are little pockets of cosy practice which Van Miert might root out.

The reason why Van Miert is concentrating on Formula 1 is because Ecclestone in effect invited him in. By deciding to crystallise the value of his busi-

ness, he is in danger of destroying that value in the process. If this glorified middleman's company is worth £1.5 billion, it is because of inefficiencies in the market place. These will be smoothed out by a combination of Van Miert, the broadcasters and the Formula 1 teams. Ecclestone's company will never float in its current form. Whether it survives in anything approximating to its current form must now also be in doubt.

Tricky sums on the high street

Someone is miscalculating the strength of consumer demand: retailers, policy-makers or shoppers themselves. Perhaps it is Britain's store chains. In areas such as clothing and electronics, they overstocked and began to panic about a poor Christmas. After a reportedly good last weekend, one can only

say with certainty that 1997 Christmas trade will either be relatively weak or sweatily late.

No wonder that many more big high street names than usual have blinked and started pre-Christmas sales. Autumn trading was peculiar but generally dull before December.

The latest revised national income figures show that consumer spending rose by only 0.7 per cent in the third quarter, less than half the rate in the second quarter of 1997. That includes September, a month clearly affected by the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. That event, however, may also have disguised a weakening trend also glimpsed in November.

Many retailers therefore had higher stocks than usual coming into Christmas. Douglas McWilliams, the business economist, reckons that discounts after Christmas may be unusually deep. January 1998 may have to see the sale of the century to clear

the backlog of unwanted stock, at least in some areas of expensive discretionary spending. If that proves true consumers will have calculated smartly. Unless they succumb to a late surge today and on Christmas Eve, shoppers will have outstripped shopkeepers.

Come the New Year, the greatest danger of miscalculation will be at the monthly meetings of the Bank of England's rate-fixing monetary policy committee. They will need to reassess the trends they had assumed when they pushed through five rate rises fast.

They should also reassess the potential inflationary impact of spending, even if it were buoyant. The IMF's assault on Asia tigers is already having an impact on luxury markets, for instance for diamonds. This will bring increasing downward pressure on prices of some more modest goods. And the cause of Asian malaise was overproduction, to be cured by devaluation.

Vendôme highly enough — the share price having virtually halved before the Ruperts decided to buy out the 30 per cent they do not own.

The Ruperts think the market has taken an overly short-term view of Vendôme's exposure to the financial crisis in Japan. They point out that building luxury goods brands can take years of investment and a short-term problem should not affect the long-term prospects too greatly. The way the market has treated profits warnings from Donna Karan and Gucci support their view. But it is particularly difficult for the average investor to understand how the luxury goods market operates. And if the Ruperts think that the Far East crisis is a short-term blip, then good luck to them. If they are buying Vendôme at a bargain price then it is a testimony to their bravery.

All or nothing euro

COMPARED with British political fudge, now most sugaray on the euro — Romano Prodi says it refreshingly how it is. In Spain yesterday, Italy's Prime Minister nuked the official line that joiners, including Latins, would hardly notice the difference. "I am convinced," he said "that once we have the single currency, either the entire system will collapse or else we will achieve convergence". Sounds right. It's just a question of the odds.

Chief to net £52m from buyout

By GEORGE STIVELL

BETTERWARE, the door-to-door household goods supplier, yielded to a £177 million bid from its managing director and finance director yesterday. The deal values the holding of Andrew Cohen, chairman, and his family at £52 million.

Mr Cohen is to reinvest between £10 million and £12 million in Finchurch Place, the NatWest Equity Partners (NWEPE) vehicle that has mounted the bid. This will give Mr Cohen between 20 and 24 per cent of the new vehicle. He paid £253,000 for Betterware when he bought the business from receivers in 1983.

The bid emerged from informal talks between Mr Cohen and NWEPE, after which NWEPE approached Peter Harley, Betterware's managing director, and Paul Turner, finance director. They helped to mount the bid, which was yesterday recommended by the group's independent directors and Rothschild, their advisers.

Mr Cohen said: "For some time now my family and I have been looking to reduce our significant investment in Betterware so as to diversify our investment portfolio and pursue other interests."

Mr Cohen is keen to step up the property interests he has developed in the past three or four years.

The bid values each share at 110p. Shareholders have the choice of cash, loan notes, or a so-called unit alternative that gives them an investment in Finchurch Place on the same terms as Mr Cohen and NatWest. Betterware shares rose 10½p to close at 107½p in response.

On trading, Betterware said that its overseas joint venture operations with Avon were not expected to make a significant contribution to profits until the year 2000 at the earliest and that future development is best achieved as an unquoted company.

Mr Cohen will remain as a consultant for up to 12 days a year for a fee of up to £12,000 a year. The fee will be donated to the Betterware Charitable Foundation.

Bupa wins control of Care First with revised £273m bid

By PAUL DURMAN

BUPA, the medical insurance group, is about to become Britain's biggest nursing home operator after winning control of Care First with an increased bid of £273 million.

Care First's board decided to recommend Bupa's 170p-a-share offer after it became clear it could not be bettered by Chai Patel, the company's former chief executive who has been trying to put together a deal financed by BC Partners.

Acceptances from directors including Keith Bradshaw, Care First's chairman, gave Bupa 24.8 per cent of the company, but it quickly lifted its stake above 50 per cent by buying shares in the market. Bupa's original offer of 150p a share valued Care First at £241 million.

Mr Bradshaw, a founder of Takare, which merged with

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Mr Bradshaw, a founder of Takare, which merged with

Court Cavendish to form Care First last year, will receive about £21 million for his stake. He will initially remain a non-executive director, and will become a consultant to Bupa. Mr Bradshaw, 55, said he has still to decide what to do next. He is non-executive chairman of two private companies: a substantial motor dealership and BLT Industries, a manufacturer of amplifier and PA systems. Much criticised for Care First's recent poor performance, he said: "I look forward to spending a few years indulging my entrepreneurial instincts not in the public eye."

Peter Jacobs, chief executive of Bupa, said the addition of Care First would make the group the market leader, with 211 homes and 16,000 beds. He said he believed Dr Patel's team would have tabled their own offer yesterday if Bupa had not been willing to top it. Dr Patel and BC Partners indicated to Care First late last week that they were prepared to make an offer close to 170p. Dr Patel, who still owns more than one million shares and 800,000 options in Care First, will make about £2 million from the Bupa deal.

Paul Saper, of Laing & Buisson, the healthcare analysts, said Bupa had paid a very full price, which it was able to justify because of the additional benefits it receives from its reputation and from cheaper financing. He suggested Dr Patel's former Court Cavendish management team at Care First were still waiting "with their bags packed" ready to rejoin Dr Patel in his next venture.

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Changes at Merrydown

By DOMINIC WALSH

MERRYDOWN, the embattled cidermaker, is to implement a board restructuring that was originally devised as a back-up in case a bid approach failed to produce a formal offer.

As a result, Merrydown's veteran Richard Purdey has relinquished the role of executive chairman to become non-executive deputy chairman and Andy Nash, former managing director of Matthew Clark, a rival cidermaker, has been brought in as non-executive chairman.

There was immediately speculation that the talks with the unnamed suitor might have hit difficulties. However, Paul Millman, managing director, said the discussions continued and it had simply been decided that it would be in shareholders' best interest if Mr Nash was brought on board as soon as possible.

The takeover approach was revealed this month as Merrydown reported half-year losses of almost £1 million as a result

of a sharp drop in sales of Two Dogs, the controversial alecop. An exceptional charge of £630,000 came from the group's decision to hand distribution of Two Dogs to Scottish & Newcastle.

The identity of the mystery bidder is still not being revealed, although speculation has centred on Pernod Ricard, the French drinks group. A brewer or a luxury goods group are also thought to be possibilities.

Country Casuals takeover agreed

By FRASER NELSON

MARK and Christina Bunce booked themselves a £2.8 million Christmas present yesterday after agreeing to Austin Reed's £25.9 million bid for Country Casuals, the retail chain they bought out eight years ago. The Bunces, who still share an 11 per cent stake in the fashion chain despite having resigned from the board, will now sever their links with the company after the failure of their own takeover attempt six months ago.

Austin Reed's 135p-a-share offer comes at a 48 per cent premium to its market value before the latest merger talks were

announced. After the company rejected advances from Mr Bunce and John Shannon, his former colleague, analysts held out little hope for a successful takeover.

John Ketteler, the merchant banker brought in as chairman of Country Casuals in October, said Austin Reed will be able to use its £24 million cash pile to finance badly needed refurbishment of its 67 high street stores. He said: "We don't have the kind of money needed, and the shares would never have gone far without it. Under Austin Reed, the employees have a better deal."

Mr Ketteler is standing down as

chairman. He said: "I joined when the shares were 95p, now the offer is 135p. It's a case of last person out, switch off the lights."

Colin Evans, chairman of Austin Reed, played down the prospect of heavy investment. He said: "It's not so much a question of money, but of getting the company focused."

He intends to lift Country Casuals' sales of 135p per sq ft nearer to the £425 level currently achieved by Austin Reed. However, he said that a stock rejuvenation will not be complete until spring 1999. The shares jumped 11½p to 132½p yesterday.

Van Miert takes pole position

COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Korea *et al* will be selling at sharp prices, diluting any inflationary pressure in Western countries from domestic consumers. Instead of waiting until February to test fourth quarter spending before deciding on a further rise, the committee might usefully discuss straight away whether it has already put rates up too high for consumers.

Fortunes favour the brave Ruperts

THERE is something curious about Vendôme being taken private. This is a company which exists because of the high price of its goods. It creates its own exclusivity through the apparent rarity and *cachet* of its products — selling under brand names such as Piaget, Montblanc, Dunhill and Chloé. And a great deal of this has to do with their expense. Why else would one purchase a beautifully crafted wallet for £150 when something just as serviceable and as hard wearing could be obtained for a tenth of the price? So it is ironic that the fabulously wealthy Rupert family from South Africa considers that the market does not value

Press groups move in on two family firms

By RAYMOND SNODDY
MEDIA EDITOR

THE consolidation of the UK regional newspaper industry intensified yesterday as Johnston Press and Southern Newspapers, two of the expanding groups, agreed to buy two traditional family newspaper publishers.

Johnston Press, the fifth largest regional publisher, is paying around £52 million in cash and shares for Home Counties, which publishes 48 paid-for and free weekly newspapers. Its titles include the *Hampstead and Highgate Express*.

The Gibbs family controlled the papers for more than 100 years and currently holds a 32 per cent stake.

Tim Bowdler, chief executive of Johnston, yesterday emphasised the possibilities for revenue growth and cost savings from the elimination



Tim Bowdler: cost savings

of corporate and administrative overheads.

Southern Newspapers agreed to pay £35 million for the privately owned Bailey Newspaper Group (BNG), which publishes 14 principal titles in Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, Wiltshire and South Wales.

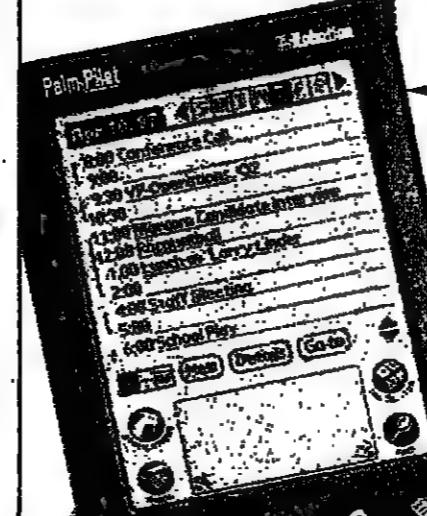
Home Counties had pre-tax profits of £3.2 million on a £37.3 million turnover last year, while BNG had pre-tax profits of £1.2 million on a turnover of £13.8 million.

□ United News and Media, publisher of *The Express*, is sifting through the bids for its remaining regional newspapers.

The newspaper industry believes that Trinity International is favourite for United's northern titles, which include the *Yorkshire Post*, and that Tony O'Reilly's Irish Independent group is favourite for the southern titles, mainly in London, Surrey and Essex.

Tempus, page 24

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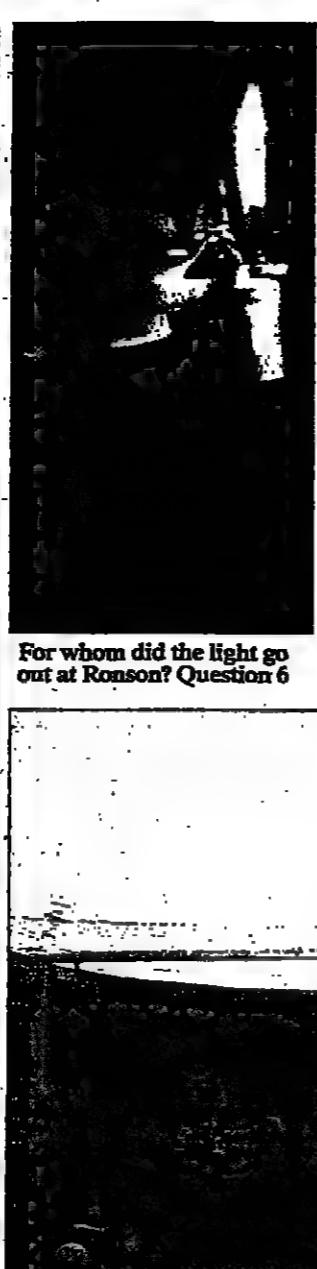
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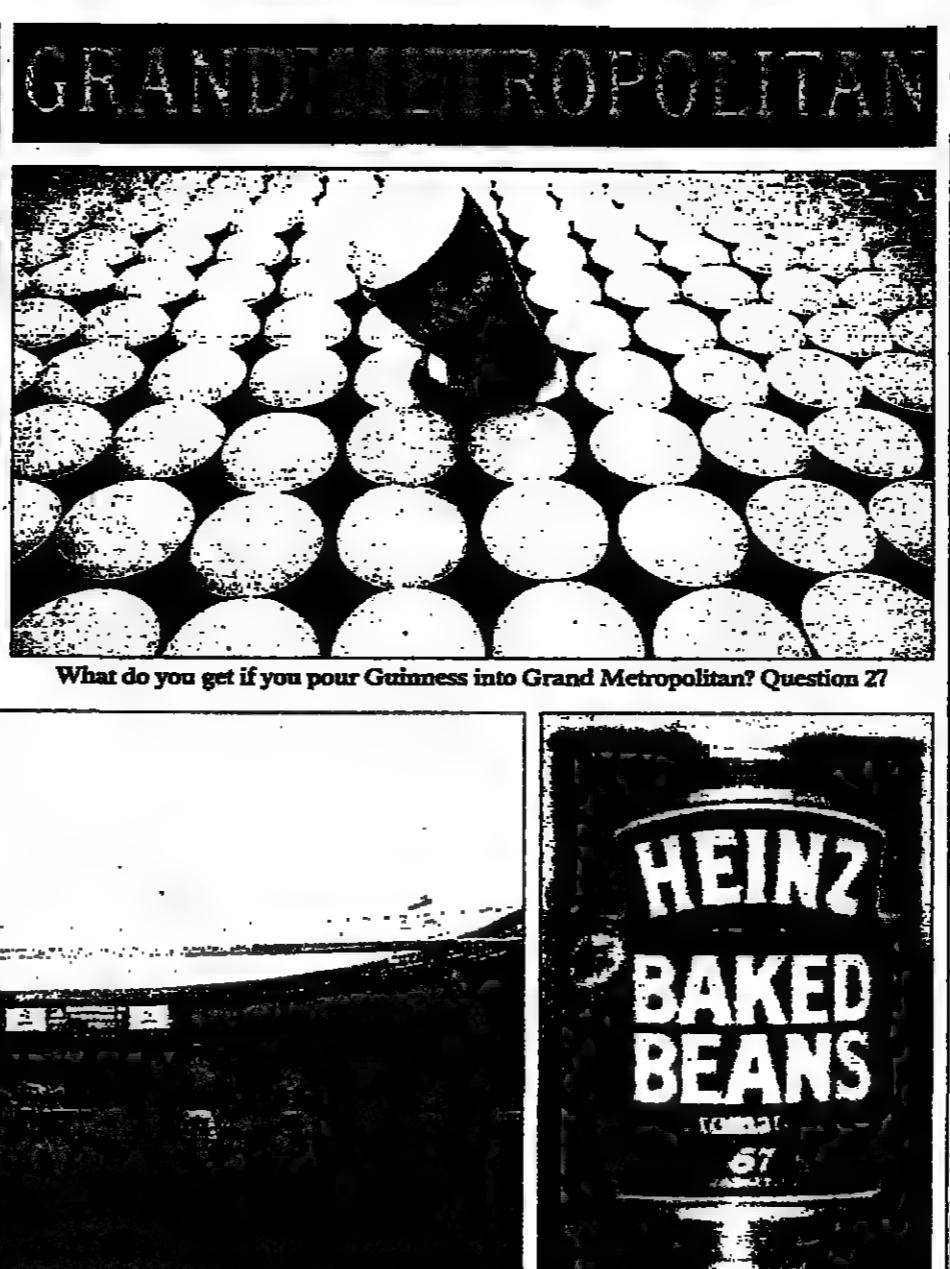
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PUS
I hots up

Did Roger Levitt begin his career at Barlow Clowes, Slater Walker or M&S? Question 24



For whom did the light go out at Ronson? Question 6



What do you get if you pour Guinness into Grand Metropolitan? Question 27

Can you name the player whose injury hit his club's shares, and which quoted football club found itself relegated into administration? Questions 14 and 19

Who decided he had had enough of baked beans? Question 17

Can you remember who made the City headlines this year?

Times writers trawl back through the business year

in search of questions fit to test your knowledge

1. Which noted firebrand and retail told currency speculators it was their duty to blow fixed exchange rates apart over the European currency became a reality? (Clue: the answer is neither George Soros "nor" Mahathir Mohamad).

2. Which retail star opened a children's boutique on the King's Road, and then attempted a comeback takeover of the company that had originally sacked him?

3. Why did a mummified pygmy cause a stir in the City?

4. Which TV mogul quit the industry for a life of leisure at his family firm?

5. Which celebrity chef was hired by Granada to ginger up the restaurants at its Forte hotels?

6. Name the former celebrity undertaker whose career at Ronson, the lighter maker, was abruptly extinguished.

7. And the much-married boss whose career at United Utilities was suddenly under water?

8. And the sailing-mad merchant banker now serving behind the mast at the Bank of England?

9. Which City merchant bank finally won the hand of Simon Robertson, the former head of Dresdner Kleinwort Benson and City heavy hitter who was



Was it Kevin Keegan, Lord Moyne or Neville Chamberlain who was most trusting? Question 23

Paid monthly

CAREERS don't come much shorter than this. Gerard Wainwright, appointed chief executive of Care First on December 13, could be queuing up at the DSS by the New Year. Well, not exactly at the DSS, because he is not short of a bob or two, having already sold one business and turned around another, but you know what I mean: Yesterday's agreed bid for the nursing homes group from Bupa means he could be out of a job, if the new owners decide to run the show themselves. And no pay-off, because he was brought in on a one-month

rolling contract. "I insisted on no contractual obligations on the part of the company — I got involved in the knowledge that a bid was on the table. They insisted on one month," he says, which must have given the negotiations with the head-hunters a surreal air.

The business he sold in 1993 was

Britain's biggest hospital bedmaker,

and healthcare remains his first love.

We reminisce briefly about the days when his biggest competitor in the hospital bed business doubled up,

perversely, as a civil engineer.

THE Solomon Brothers name no longer exists after the merger with Smith Barney, the American investment bank was left with various bits of corporate merchandise — gym bags, balls and, for some reason, a large number of those fashionable fleecy tops — still carrying it. The bank has just auctioned these, raising £10,000 for the Macmillan Cancer Relief Fund. There was some spirited secondary dealing, too, after someone from equities cornered the market in golf balls and fixed income snapped up all the fleecy tops.

Heavy weather

JOHN KETTELEY, the former Warburg merchant banker who chairs

various colleagues but admits: "It wasn't much fun getting up at six o'clock and getting to bed at half past four." Kettleley is chairman of a fourth company, Prolific Income Trust. Anything happening there over the next few days, perhaps? He sounds appalled, as if the idea has only just occurred to him. "No. But if something does, I think my wife is going to have something to say about it."

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Equities mark time

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THE TIMES TUESDAY DECEMBER 23 1997

BRIEFLY NOTED

Rent for London

THEATRE: The West End will see *Rent*, the hottest ticket on Broadway, next year. The musical, a reworking of Puccini's opera *La Bohème* that places the story in present-day New York, opened at the New York Theatre Workshop in February 1996, before transferring to Broadway in April of that year. It then played to continuously sold-out houses and won four Tony Awards. The death of its young creator, Jonathan Larson, just before the show opened did nothing to hinder its subsequent cult success. Four of the Broadway cast will be starring in the London production, which opens at the Shaftesbury Theatre on May 12.

POP: The backlash against the Prodigy title *Smack My Bitch Up* continues with the decision by 4,000 American high-street stores to remove the album containing the song from their shelves. Wal-Mart and Kmart stores decided not to stock Prodigy's *Fat of the Land* album after American newspapers drew attention to the offensive title of its most notorious song, and the National Organisation of Women declared that it glorified domestic violence. Wal-Mart and Kmart are among the largest record retailers in America, but their decision is somewhat belated: the album is already a top seller.

MUSIC: The power of the Internet has forged an unlikely rapport between a Chinese radio station and that very English organisation, the Elgar Society. A classical music presenter on Nanjing Music Radio contacted the society by sending an e-mail to its Website, and asked for "a few classical CDs composed by Elgar", because they were difficult to buy in China. The society responded with 17 recordings of the composer's work, and are now attempting to establish links with other Chinese radio stations. A case of piling on to the challenge of circumstance, perhaps.

FIFF: Emir Kusturica, the perennial darling of the European film festival circuit, is to direct one of Dennis Potter's last projects — a screenplay adaptation of *The White Hotel* that radically reinterprets D.M. Thomas's most celebrated novel. A complex chronicle of a woman's life and fantasies from 1900 to the start of the Second World War, the book has been translated into 20 languages since the Cornish author wrote it in 1981. Potter, who died in 1994, was commissioned to write a screen adaptation by the producers Robert Geister and John Roberdeau in 1990.

MUSIC: Hettie Judah joins Pavarotti, Bono and pals as they touch down in Bosnia to open the War Child charity's music centre. Plus concert reviews

Richard Cork takes a cool look at a disturbing, newly revealed Renaissance image of the Nativity

A holy mother knows best

Glimpsed from a distance, Sebastiano del Piombo's painting seems the quintessence of tenderness. Executed on a rondo-shaped panel, the picture uses its circular format to emphasise a binding intimacy between mother and offspring. We appear to be spying, as if through an enlarged keyhole, at a private scene. The Virgin leans forward to handle the cloth swathing her child's chubby thighs.

Until recently the painting was in a private collection, little-known other than to Renaissance specialists. But now that the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge has purchased it for £1.6 million, with the help of a lottery grant, the picture can be studied by anyone. And as we draw nearer, the more troubling Sebastiano's image becomes.

Sebastiano was still a young man when he painted this gravely affecting Madonna and Child. Probably executed soon after he left Venice for Rome in 1511, the panel marks a decisive moment in his development. Having worked closely with the short-lived Giorgione, he knew how to saturate his paintings with the Venetian palette at its most sensuous. But the move to Rome, at the invitation of the banker Agostino Chigi, brought about a profound change. Painting mythological frescoes at the Villa Farnesina, Sebastiano encountered Raphael's work in the same building. Above all, he must have been astounded by the awesome ceiling cycle Michelangelo was completing at the Sistine Chapel.

The two men became friends. Michelangelo provided Sebastiano with drawings to help him with three major commissions, most notably a monumental *Raising of Lazarus* now in the National Gallery. Sebastiano became a stern Roman classicist, and was rewarded in 1511 with the keepership of the papal seal or *piombarone* — a post which gave the artist his enduring nickname.

Even in a Rome as early as the *Madonna and Child*, he is determined to cast aside beguiling Venetian lyricism.

Both figures in the Fitzwilliam tondo are grander than anything he had produced before. Rather than relying on drawings supplied by Michelangelo, Sebastiano seems here to have taken his main stimulus from the Sistine Chapel itself. The child's twisted pose appears to be based on one of the angels supporting God in Michelangelo's magisterial fresco *The Creation of Adam*. As for Sebastiano's Virgin, she derives from the imposing figure of the Cumæan Sibyl on the Sistine ceiling. The wrinkled woman in Michelangelo's painting has become a youthful mother, and Sebastiano makes his Madonna slimmer than the sturdy, strangely muscular old prophetess. But this Virgin is still formidably well-built.

She inclines her head towards the child with impressive dignity. The Roman kerchief covering much of her hair hangs on one side, defining her profile with chiselled clarity. She does not smile, and her broad, lowered eyelid adds to the sense of gravitas. Although this Madonna lacks the seasoned wisdom of the Cumæan Sibyl, she possesses hieratic authority in abundance. Enough of her neck is visible to establish its strength. And the dark cloth of honour providing the Virgin's backdrop, just as it does in so many paintings by Sebastiano's master Giovanni Bellini, reinforces her sculptural solidity.

The edge of the cloth sends a powerful vertical line slicing down through the picture, threatening to sever the mother from her infant. But Sebastiano ensures that the

Madonna's resolute arms stretch across this division. She is firmly linked with the child, and her right hand closes on her shoulder with unusual, clamp-like conviction.

More than anything else, those resolute fingers offer the key to understanding the picture's full significance. For Sebastiano juxtaposes their pained, fiercely clenched angularity with the soft and fluffy glow of a goldfinch. The Christ child holds the bird in his plump fist. He has clearly been playing with it, and the disturbance accounts for his extravagantly twisted pose. The Virgin's clasping hand causes his head to swivel back in her direction. He must have sensed the persistence of his mother's protective gesture,

and gazes up at her with an air of puzzlement.

Why does she seek to divert him from the bird? His involvement with the pet seems harmless, and Sebastiano places it against a landscape enchanting enough to associate the goldfinch with unalloyed delight. There, in a setting where sunlight tinged the walls of a hilltop town and makes a high cloud blaze with whiteness, Sebastiano allows himself to recall his past. It is an act of homage to his origins, and proves that he could still paint with all his former Venetian charm.

But the appeal of the countryside seems fugitive compared with the heavy, assertive bulk of mother and offspring. Their convoluted interplay gives the painting its central tension, and the Virgin has good reason to wrest her child's attention away from

the bird. She knows, as well as the patron who commissioned this painting, that the goldfinch, widely favoured as a pet in 16th-century Italy, was also a symbol of Christ's passion and death. When Michelangelo carved the marble tondo now owned by the Royal Academy, he made the Christ child recoil in alarm from the goldfinch offered by John the Baptist. Sebastiano's infant is not frightened by his bird, but the Madonna appreciates her when Christ's lifeless body is lowered from the cross.

This is a mother who, despite the goldfinch, wants to be reunited with her son. She tries to prevent him moving impulsively away, beyond the safety of her grasp. The true extent of the Virgin's determination is disclosed by her attempt to wrap him in the drape she herself is wearing. The brilliant yellow cloth runs like an umbilical cord between

Madonna and infant, and signifies the fervency of her wish never to let him go.

Ultimately, though, they both know how impossible that desire really is. The boy, fast growing beyond babyhood, occupies his own space separate from the Virgin. He clutches the goldfinch with possessive resolve, and his mother gazes down at him with a hint of the mournfulness which will overwhelm her when Christ's lifeless body is lowered from the cross.

Trajectory here is withheld by the stubborn assertion of maternal will. But the boy responds to her attempted embrace with reluctance, and already seems oppressed by a premonition of the suffering to come.

● Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge (01223 323000), then at the Royal Academy's Art Treasures of England exhibition from Jan 22.

AROUND THE GALLERIES

THE standing of Glyn Philpot (1884-1937) remains more enigmatic than that of any other major 20th-century British painter. This may have something to do with his private life: he was openly homosexual — or as openly as anyone was in those days. But, more to the point, he underwent a spectacular change of style in mid-career: in 1930 he suddenly "went Picasso", as a newspaper of the day put it. Up to then he had been a fairly conservative, respectable painter with considerable success. But in his late forties he threw it all aside, adopting instead a spare, comparatively modern style, influenced primarily by Picasso and lining him up with that brand of Parisian chic we would now call Deco. He was accused of cynicism and opportunism and lost many of his old admirers without living long enough to establish a solid new reputation. The show at the Fine Art Society is heavily weighted towards the last period, much of it coming from the collection of his niece, Gabrielle Cross, who died recently. It includes fine portraits, among them famous images of Vivien Leigh and of Jules Zaire, a black Paris barman. There are also some of his magical Symbolist fantasies, such as *Saint Sebastian* and *Fugue*, both of 1932, and some highly evocative North African scenes. There seems no doubt that his last period was far and away his finest. High time to forget the kerfuffle these paintings caused and accept them gratefully for just what they are.

Fine Art Society, 148 New Bond Street, W1 (0171 629 5161). Mon-Fri 9.30am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-1pm, until Jan 16

■ SINCE the circus contains so many glittering encounters between illusion and reality, glamour and squalor, pleasure and pain, it is hardly surprising that so many artists have been drawn to it. In 1937 Morris Kestelman was commissioned to prepare colour lithographic illustrations for a book on the circus in England. The advent of the war meant the book never appeared, and the lithographs are only now published. To celebrate the occasion, and Kestelman's 92nd birthday, the Boundary Gallery presents a seasonal show of Kestelman on the circus, contrasted with three other artists, American Jacqueline Morreau, British (Cillian Kogan) and Georgian (Jacob Jugashvili). The variety of response is astonishing.

Boundary Gallery, 98 Boundary Road, NW8 (0171 634 1261). Wed-Sat 11am-6pm, reopens Jan 7, until Jan 17

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR



Sebastiano's powerful *Madonna and Child*: the goldfinch clutched in the boy's hand is more than a mere childish distraction, as his mother knows

Pipe up for peace



Pavarotti: high-speed trip

Society ladies may prefer New York, but for that last pre-Christmas Day trip, musicians favour Mostar. This week Luciano Pavarotti was delivered on to Bosnian soil through the back end of a vast RAF Chinook, flanked by Mostar's black and formerly Serb-sodden hills. It was a suitably surreal piece of stage direction for the maestro's visit: despite all the publicity, money and music that he had put into the country through his "Pavarotti and Friends" concerts, this was his first ever sniff of Bosnian air.

While he may have withheld his physical presence, his influence has secured the development of one of the boldest arts projects on the route to Bosnian regeneration. The construction of War Child's "Pavarotti Music Centre" in divided, chequered Mostar is an expression not simply of hope for the future of Bosnia's children, but of almost crazy faith in the future of the city.

Mostar is still strongly divided along Bosnian Muslim and Croat lines. Car bombs have gone off as recently as September, and day-to-day tensions still run high. Even Pavarotti's co-sponsor, U2 frontman Bono, admits that the centre will be a tempting target should the Croats restart their bomb attacks. Built behind the facade of a shelled orphanage in Muslim East Mostar, the building is bright, modern and prominently positioned. It was him that Pavarotti's obviously Italian, and hence Catholic, name was

attached to the building to deter a Catholic Croat offensive. There are few who would invest in a major capital project in a time of such uncertain peace, and it is to War Child and Pavarotti's great credit that they were brave enough to do so.

In a four-hour visit there is room for little more than symbolic gestures: this trip was potent with them. Having broken his oath that he would never fly in a helicopter (he later told me that it was something "I would not do for a million dollars, but I'd do it for these children"), Pavarotti hurtled through the city at uncharacteristic speed. He had an impressive entourage: Bono, Brian Eno, Bianca Jagger, Sir Tom Stoppard and a batch of Italian musical stars came to express solidarity. For one evening at least, their gesture of peace was reciprocated.

"This war will produce music of real anger," Bono told me. "Any city has a right to make noise to exorcise what they've been through." It seems that Mostar has got to make some serious noise before we hear the melody.

Festive gifts

Polyphony/Canzona/Layton St John's

A BUSY weekend for Stephen Layton's vocal ensemble Polyphony saw them give Handel's *Messiah* on Saturday and half of Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* on Sunday, both at St John's, Smith Square. They were assisted in Sunday's programme by the early music group Canzona (director Theresa Caudle) which, as well as accompanying the first three parts of the Bach, filled out the programme with Corelli's *Concerto Grossop No 8* in G minor, the "Christmas Concerto".

The core of Canzona is small but flexible — players are added for larger works such as the Bach — and a sense of that individual response came across in the Corelli. Just as the members of a string quartet would interact, so Canzona's instrumentalists breathed together in the Adagio sections and struck sparks off each other in the Allegros.

Taking over the direction for the Christmas Oratorio, Stephen Layton adopted similarly judicious tempi. The Sinfonia introducing Part 2, another pastoral movement, had a perfectly judged, lilting dotted rhythm, pushing gently forward all the time. The big choral movements, such as those opening Parts 1 and 3, had buoyancy as well as an appropriately celebratory air, while the chorales were treated with imaginative variety. Catherine Bott made the most of the relatively minor

soprano role, duetting stylishly with the bass, Michael George, in *Lord, Thy Mercy*. George himself has one of the noblest voices in the early music business, and even if there were worrying signs of it spreading unduly, he delivered his numbers with customary aplomb. Catherine Wyn-Rogers was a fine contralto soloist in *Slumber Beloved* while, in the tenor role, James Gilchrist was fresh of voice and animated of line.

BARRY MILLINGTON

High, wide and handsome

Philharmonia/Levine Albert Hall

children's choirs and orchestra. Banked up high above the platform, the well-drilled singers attacked every phrase as one, even when Levine was less than prodigious with his cues. Both visually and aurally this was an Albert Hall spectacular, with the stage bursting at the seams and the magnificent tutti underpinned by the unmistakable sound of the organ.

There were a few moments,

especially in the first movement, where Levine seemed to be marking time. At such points it was tempting to question Mahler's grandiose vision in combining the two mystical texts — the first a medieval prayer, the second the closing scene from Goethe's *Faust* — but strong vocal performances soon drew the ear back in.

From the formidable line-up of singers, all regular Levine collaborators, two stood out all evening: the imposing, golden-toned mezzo of Michelle DeYoung and the incisive tenor of Johan Botha. Jane Eaglen's top notes were not always spot-on and her voice may have lost its shine, but Deborah Voigt compensated with her radiant soprano.

Stepping in at short notice, Jan-Hendrik Roetering made his mark as Pater Proflundis in the second movement. Heidi Grant Murphy sang the Mater Gloriosa's brief lines with purity, and Birgitte Svendsen and Eike Wilm Schulte maintained the level of this high-class octet.

The orchestral playing was especially warm in the second movement. Levine emphasised the chamber music-like qualities of the writing in its successive episodes, always making them as cohesive and unsentimental as possible. Best of all was the hushed tone with which the massive chorus began the closing hymn, and the masterfully controlled build-up to the work's earth-shattering end.

HILARY FINCH

believe that there could ever be such devoted sisters in art, as they pouting at each other during some exquisite Schubertian singing exercises, or cooing through sisterly duets by Wolf, Brahms, Mendelssohn and Schumann.

Their own vocal virtuosity was answered by Johnson's and Jackson's respective skills in literary detection, selection and recitation. From Austen and Kipling to Dorothy Parker, Samuel Johnson and D.H. Lawrence they ranged. And Jackson's declamation of Don Alfonso's laconic lines from *Cosi* found their match in the most deft and daring musical connections in the fingers of Johnson.

JOHN ALLISON

IF FIORDILIGI and Dorabella had been Lieder singers... well, they would have been snapped up by the Songmakers' Almanac which, in its 21st birthday year, turned back the pages for a repeat performance of that gloriously speculative evening of witty homages to Mozart and to the female voice.

Graham Johnson has suggested that this, one of his most virtuous feats of programming, bears a similar relationship to *Cosi fan tutte* as Tom Stoppard's *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* does to *Hamlet*. That gives you some idea. But it gives only a hint of the web of verbal and musical cross-reference, the tenderness and the outrageously double-act that it was difficult to

Check out those employee records

By RODNEY HOBSON

EMPLOYEE records should be spring cleaned when firms reopen after the Christmas break because of impending changes in the law, the Institute of Personnel and Development says.

The publication of the Data Protection Bill is scheduled to take place in January. It will extend the right of employees to have access to written as well as computerised records.

Angela Edward, the institute's policy adviser, says: "Employees will have the right to know what information employers keep on them, how it is used and its relevance to their pay, promotion and prospects."

She says there could be serious financial implications for employers found keeping inaccurate information and advises companies to check that all data is accurate, relevant and valid. The main danger is with information gathered informally, which is more likely to be inaccurate, as it is rarely checked and verified in the same way as formal records.

Arguing that properly processed data is good for business as well as for the employer, she says: "Employers who use out-of-date or inaccurate information to make decisions about training, promotion or career development risk making expensive mistakes. Employers should not keep anything that they may not be able to verify or justify. If you don't want your employee to see it, then you shouldn't keep it."

However, she cautions employers against allowing people to see data that identifies a third party.



"Don't talk to me about having to work Christmas Day!"

Christmas starts early for small businesses

Widget Finn on how festive firms spread the work through the year

For a small enterprise, Christmas starts early. Chantal Tunnicliffe is already planning and selling her card designs for the 1998 season. About 95 per cent of her business is Christmas-focused and half the annual turnover is generated from September to December. This year's Christmas trade finished for her on December 15. Next month she will be planning marketing for the next festive season and discussing new lines with her commercial customers.

Five years ago Mrs Tunnicliffe heard about Emmaus, an international charity for homeless people, and wanted to help to raise money for her local branch in Cambridge. She offered some artwork which proved highly popular as Christmas cards, and that modest beginning turned her from a self-taught amateur artist into a professional painter and businesswoman.

The success of the cards for Emmaus made me think that there could be a wider market for my designs," says Mrs Tunnicliffe. "So I did a very optimistic initial print run of 5,000 of each of six designs."

Her optimism was justified and the designs — themed around Russian churches — attracted a lot of interest at the Birmingham Spring Gift Fair. There she made her first contacts with other charities and shops, and now supplies cards to several charities including SOS Children's Villages, the National Eczema Society, the Dyslexia Association and the Pasteur Institute in Paris. She has over a hundred designs in production which are sold to wholesale customers in France, Switzerland, Russia and Canada.

Mrs Tunnicliffe handles all the print-buying herself so she can oversee the process. "It's time-consuming, but it means that I get better financial return than simply selling on the designs." That first tentative print run has been well eclipsed. Save the Children Fund ordered 150,000 cards of one design



Angela Hawkins and Dinah Saville with some of the handmade crackers that can be recycled every year

this year, while Emmaus, her first customer, has sold more than 20,000 Tunnicliffe cards this season. Charity cards sell for about £8 each, but Mrs Tunnicliffe's creations can run to more than £1 each. Turnover in 1997 reached £50,000.

National gift fairs are Mrs Tunnicliffe's main market, which means that from early spring she is preparing the Christmas orders. She also takes stand at the *Country Living Christmas Fair* in November.

"This year's fair was the first where I did more than break even, because I was selling artwork and prints as well as cards," she says. "Cards are so inexpensive that it's impossible to make money selling direct to the public but it's very valuable to talk to customers. I learn which designs are popular and why."

This market research has made Mrs Tunnicliffe change the colour schemes of her cards from cool blues and greens to warmer tones. Her current bestselling cards feature

camels on the flight into Egypt. "People like to be reminded of the summer, and heat and foreign holidays," she explains.

Christmas for Angela Hawkins and Dinah Saville starts on January 9 — when they plan their schedule of gift fairs and work out how much stock will be needed. Their business, selling reusable crackers, can justifiably claim to be as green as a bunch of holly. "Crackers are an expensive item that are bought by every household in the country — and then thrown away," explains Mrs Hawkins. "We produce handmade crackers in beautiful materials that can easily be reassembled and recycled each year."

The Cracker Makers started three years ago, selling at local charity fairs, but the partners soon decided that London was their main market. Now they sell at national craft fairs and do mail-order sales generated through the considerable publicity they have attracted through magazine editorials. The

partners are looking at extending the selling season with dried flower arrangements and customised crackers for golden weddings and special occasions, but Christmas trading dominates half of the year.

"There's a constant battle to keep up with demand at this time of year," says Angela Hawkins. "Apart from employing students in the summer to build up cracker stocks, it's just the two of us working all hours — which, of course, doesn't come into our pricing structure."

Mrs Hawkins reckons she will be sending out orders "right up until Christmas Eve". Meanwhile Chantal Tunnicliffe avoided this final week's frantic countdown to Christmas. Last orders completed, she escaped abroad to paint and get inspiration for the cards we will be sending in 1998.

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REVIEWS THE YEAR



Why are lawyers so disliked? Jim Carrey in the Hollywood comedy *Liar, Liar*, plays up to the popular image as the lawyer/liar of the title

Everyone loathes a lawyer

Making the legal profession more popular could prove daunting for Labour, says Fiona Bawdon

At the end of his apocalyptic speech to the Law Society conference in October, Lord Irvine of Lairg noted that the legal profession had fallen lower and lower in public estimation in recent years. One of his aims as Lord Chancellor was to see lawyers being held in the same affection as nurses. His "new regime" — of replacing legal aid with conditional fees in all civil money claims — "should go a long way to heighten the public standing of lawyers".

Loathing and suspicion of lawyers has a long pedigree. In 321 BC, Plato wrote that a lawyer's soul is small and unrighteous... from the first he has practised deception and retaliation and become stunted and warped". Such sentiments would fit nicely into a *Daily Mail* leader.

Other notables who have put the boot into lawyers include (in no particular order) Shakespeare, Benjamin Franklin, Samuel Johnson, Samuel Butler, Jonathan Swift, Thomas Jefferson, John Keats, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Oscar Wilde and Dan Quayle.

For all his fine words, Lord Irvine and his officials are not above tapping into popular dislike of lawyers when it suits them. When Downing Street officials leaked the contents of Lord Irvine's speech, presumably to ensure a favourable reception, the proposals were presented as a much-needed brake on runaway lawyers. While the broadsheets were more sceptical (pointing out that the cuts might also clobber the poor), the tabloids found the chance to engage in lawyer-bashing too good to be missed.

People feel able to demonise them as they wish

These papers knew their coverage would strike a chord with their readers, but just why are lawyers so unpopular? Marcel Berlins, a writer and broadcaster, says it is partly because of the circumstances in which most people go to see them. "On the whole, they are there when you are in trouble of some kind. They are seen as parasites feeding off other people's disasters." He adds that much of the opprobrium is self-inflicted. "People tend to come out of studying the law more pompous than when they went in," he says. "I have seen friends of mine go in quite normal people and come out making Latin quips and terrible insouled jokes. They develop a bedside manner of superiority and arrogance."

A bedside manner that can continue even when they are off duty. A friend's family holiday was blighted by the constant braying of a barrister, holding forth over dinner that he did not want to be

made a judge just yet because he could not live on less than the £250,000 he was earning. "He stopped talking to me when he found out I was only a graphic designer," he recalls.

Roger Smith, director of the Legal Action Group, however, insists that dislike of lawyers here is as nothing compared with the United States. "I don't think there is a visceral hatred of lawyers in this country," he says. The attitude of the British is more ambivalent. "Lawyers are seen as boring but basically trustworthy. If the Government is in a hole, it will appoint a lawyer to sort it out," he says, citing the Scott and Nolan reports.

Mr Smith fears that the extension of conditional fees, far from improving their standing — as Lord Irvine claims — will create a climate more akin to that in America.

Mr Smith explains: "Lawyers will be seen as being paid above what is reasonable. What starts off as an attack on lawyers will end up as an attack on the integrity of the justice system." Greater use of conditional fees is predicted to lead to more advertising by lawyers — and, in America, there is evidence that the more lawyers advertise, the more they are distrusted. A study in law found that after lawyers began advertising on TV, the proportion of people who thought they were honourable fell from 65 per cent to 14 per cent.

Yet leaving aside the impact of advertising, many of the criticisms now levied at lawyers could apply equally to other professions, which — with the exception of estate agents and journalists — are not generally disliked.

In a 1995 Law Society study of people's attitudes towards different professions, doctors came top across all categories. Yet doctors can be just as arrogant (ask any nurse) and use just as much jargon (ask any patient).

They are also open to accusations of treating clients/patients as little more than money-making opportunities. The heading of one article in the medical magazine *Financial Pulse* earlier this year was: "Travel vaccines — broaden your earnings. Dr Mike Townsend explains how GPs can take advantage of patients' trips to exotic destinations." The same issue also gave advice on how to boost vaccination levels and so trigger payments for meeting targets. ("As a last resort, it might even be worth giving the immunisation at home if it means hitting the target" — surely this is ambulance-chasing by another name? "This practice could generate up to £3,700 from an effective annual influenza vaccination campaign.") Imagine the field day the tabloids would have if lawyers were writing in such terms.

From bad to worse

AS IF the Government was not getting enough flak over benefits reform, the Council on Tribunals — chaired by Lord Archer of Sandwell, Solicitor-General in the last Labour Government — has attacked plans to shake up the benefits appeals system.

In its annual report, the council says that the new Social Security Bill, which will mean that benefits appeals will be heard by a single person and not a tribunal of three chaired by a lawyer, could mean a reversion to the old "unsatisfactory" system.

The new appeals body will be made up of a panel of experts. "As a result," the council says, "some appeals may in future be decided by tribunals constituted as only one person, not necessarily with legal training." The council is strongly critical of the plans, which remove from appellants the right to a hearing before a tribunal of three chaired by a lawyer, all of whom bring a wealth of expertise and experience... The effect of the other reforms in the Bill, aimed at removing errors and delays in benefits deci-

sions, should be assessed before other changes are contemplated."

Out of court

PEOPLE WITH disputes before the Court of Appeal are being encouraged to resolve them outside court under a pilot scheme launched by the Master of the Rolls, Lord Woolf.

Lord Woolf says: "I am optimistic that alternative dispute resolution has a role to play in helping

parties and the court to find ways of resolving cases without a hearing before the Court of Appeal."

Such out-of-court dispute resolution could provide a "cheaper, quicker and more satisfactory solution for the parties than a court hearing".

Two views

THE publication by the Law Society last week of its blueprint for a self-financing legal aid fund based on the "no win, no fee" principle has highlighted differences in the approaches of the profession's two branches towards the Government's reform plans.

The Bar Council is continuing to press for a contingency legal aid fund which, it says, would render unnecessary proposals to replace legal aid with conditional fees for most money claims.

The Law Society has made a conscious effort to be more accommodating. It has calculated that it is simply unrealistic to expect the Government to back down completely and is trying to persuade the Government that the Legal Aid Board — not lawyers — should stump up the conditional-fees insurance premium for people who cannot afford them.

SCRIVENOR

Freedom for Corinne

CORINNE LAMBEY, 19, has just been acquitted of murder and released from Death Row in Belize after the efforts of Freedom Now. She is the third young prisoner released this year after help by the group, which has campaigned for ten years to help Britons facing miscarriages of justice abroad, particularly those on Death Row.

The "group" in fact comprises Andrew McCooey, a Kent solicitor, with help from Edward Fitzgerald, QC. The work is all *pro bono publico*. Now the group is seeking charitable status.

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MASSIVE FEES!

"MAYBE WE SHOULD GET BACK TOGETHER..."

SCRIVENOR

STEUART & FRANCIS

Right way to deter civil wrongdoers

When courts award damages, the aim is usually to compensate the victim's loss. But this is not always so. Sometimes damages are awarded to punish the wrongdoer. These are known as "punitive" (or "exemplary") damages. Last week the Law Commission, the Government's law reform body, published a report and draft Bill for the reform of the law on punitive damages. The law in this area badly needs to be rationalised and modernised. As one senior judge has put it, the present law "cries aloud for parliamentary intervention". Almost everyone who responded to our consultation paper agreed.

There are arbitrary and illogical restrictions on when punitive damages may be awarded. The leading case of *Rookes v Barnard* in 1964 stated that unless expressly authorised by statute, punitive damages can be awarded in only two categories of case. One is where there has been oppressive, arbitrary or unconstitutional wrongdoing by a servant of the Government; and the other is where the wrongdoer has committed the wrong cynically calculating that it would be profitable to do so.

In 1993, the Court of Appeal in the Camelot water case added a further peculiar requirement: even if a case falls within the above two categories, punitive damages can be awarded only if they had been awarded for that particular wrong before 1964 (that is, before *Rookes v Barnard* was decided). This means that wrongs developed since 1964 (such as sex or race discrimination) cannot trigger an award of punitive damages; and wrongs recognised before 1964 cannot either. If one cannot trace a case (perhaps because of the accidents of law reporting) in which punitive damages were awarded for that wrong before 1964.

Now can the two categories be rationally defended? Why should a private store detective who maliciously falsely "arrests" an alleged shoplifter be immune from punitive damages, when a police officer, who does exactly the same, is not? Why should it make all the difference, as regards the availability of punitive damages, whether or not a person who physically attacks another was paid to do so, or whether an author libels a person for profit rather than simply out of malice?

But though it is widely accepted that reform is needed, responses to our consultation paper revealed very different views as to the path reform should take. One view is that rationalisation demands the abolition of punitive damages, leaving punishment as the sole preserve of the criminal law.



ANDREW BURROWS

The other main view, and the one we on the commission ultimately found persuasive, is to preserve punitive damages while putting them on a clear, principled and tightly controlled basis. Consultees impressed on us that to remove punitive damages would be to take away, for no good reason, a weapon in the judicial armoury that can be useful in fighting a wide range of outrageous wrongful conduct, including fraud, abuse of police power, infringement of health and safety standards, environmental pollution, and sex and race discrimination.

The Law Commission report therefore recommends to the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, a detailed statutory scheme to put punitive damages on a clear, principled and tightly controlled footing, in which judges would make the awards, not juries as now.

The three central elements of that scheme follow: that punitive damages would be available for a civil wrong (other than breach of contract) if the wrongdoer has deliberately and outrageously disregarded the victim's rights; the decision to award punitive damages, and their amount, would be matters for judges to decide; even where a civil trial is otherwise by jury, these matters would never be decided by a jury; and third, punitive damages would be a "last resort" remedy, which should not be awarded where another available remedy is adequate punishment and should not usually be awarded where the wrongdoer has been convicted of a criminal offence for the same conduct. We also recommend the replacement of some outdated technical rules. For example, we suggest a diametrically opposite approach to the present law on the survival of claims to punitive damages, so that the claim would survive in favour of a deceased victim's estate, but would not survive against a deceased wrongdoer's estate.

The commission believes that these reforms, if implemented by Parliament, would enable the civil justice system to play a proper role, alongside the criminal law, in punishing and deterring serious wrongdoing. At the same time, they would ensure that there is no risk of English law treading the American path of easily available, and exorbitant, punitive awards.

● Professor Burrows is a Law Commissioner. Aggravated, Exemplary and Restitutionary Damages, Law Commission Report No 347, is published by the Stationery Office (E18.50). The text of the report is available on the Internet at the commission's Website:

<http://www.gtrc.gov.uk/law/comms/homepage.htm>

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JAN
LAW

Chris McGrath meets a jockey sticking to his Hennessy winner for Kempton glory

Bradley rides high on ageless talent

The big grey horse galloped towards the fence, hesitated and changed his mind. Needing an extra stride, he suddenly soared towards the top of the fence. Somehow, he cleared it, landing, however, he crumpled steeply. Across the nation, betting slips bearing the favourite's name were likewise crumpled and flung bitterly to ground.

The long arm of the laws of gravity had Graham Bradley by the neck, forcing him inexorably towards the chipped, sticky turf. He pitched over the horse's shoulder, braced for the pain. Then, because he is a jockey of whom some have long used the word "genius" without the slightest discomfort, he stuck out a hand to the reins were slung over the horse's right ear.

At the same time, his mount straightened up with a jolt. Bradley found the reins back in his grip, his body in the front, the horse still in the vanguard of the Hennessy Gold Cup field as they approached the fifth fence. In the betting shops, disbelieving punters began rifling anxiously through the bins.

Sunny Bay went on to win the autumn's biggest steeplechase by 13 lengths. That adhesive partnership is resumed at Kempton on Boxing Day, in the Perpetual King George VI Chase. At 37, there is a valiantly edge to every big victory Bradley can conjure — but his singular and accomplished talent is already preserved in many memories, moments such as the fourth fence at Newbury.

That split-second condensed much that has become familiar during the past 15 years: the man's propensity for finding himself in a spot, and his intuitive flair for getting out of one. In his time, Bradley has given the mendacious and ignorant the opportunity to picture him as incorrigible, lawless.

In his younger days, he had problems with the stewards. Happily, the serene figure he has cut so conspicuously this season has never met any slander halfway. He is thoughtful, affectionate and true, utterly lacking in arrogance.

It was difficult to say the same last season of Andrew Cohen, Sunny Bay's owner, after he decided that the stable jockey was unlucky in his colours. Replaced by Jamie Osborne in the Grand National, Bradley considered re-



Bradley relaxes in the comfort of his Sparsholt home before riding Sunny Bay in the King George VI Chase at Kempton Park on Boxing Day

dition. It is as well for Cohen, principal patron at the Charlie Brooks yard at Lambourn, that he persevered. At least Cohen had the grace to restore Bradley when Osborn was injured in November, but the horse should not have been alone in falling to his knees at the fourth fence in the Hennessy.

Jockeys get used to such treatment and Bradley tends not to dignify it by retorting: "I had a lot of jobs in my career," the Yorkshireman said. "I still ride for every trainer that's ever employed me. I've always believed in myself. I've never done anything desperately untoward and the Press has been fairly hard on me. But I've never

worried about it. I'm a very honest person in life."

Nonetheless, he allowed himself to become disheartened last winter. "I love everyone at Uplands, after six years. But it just didn't feel the same going in, having lost the ride on the stable star. Now I'm back with a spring in my step."

The revival has been shared by Sunny Bay, "a slow old plodder" two years ago. "But when I rode him for the first time at home this year — where usually you have to push him along — he was pulling all the way. At Haydock [on his reappearance] he was incredible, over three miles on good ground. In fact, he was too free, too fresh. He kept galloping into the bottom of fences and springing his knee, and got close to

an accident.

He kept galloping into the bottom of fences and springing his knee, and got close to

the Tripleprint Gold Cup at Cheltenham. Not even

Bradley, however, can ride two horses at once, and he has stayed with Sunny Bay to tackle the grey eminence himself.

One Man. "The Senator hates sticky ground and feels sticky

light — Wayward Lad was the same. He never got the trip in the Gold Cup at Cheltenham, but was able to win three King Georges. Yes, One Man will take a hell of a lot of beating.

But whether he has ever beaten anything as good as Sunny Bay, I don't know. My only worry is that some of Charlie's horses have not been right, though Sunny Bay is out in a field. I do think him potentially a Gold Cup winner."

It is 14 years since Bradley won the Gold Cup on Bregawn, but he need not be deceived by the grey in his hair. It is no more a token of weariness than in the coats of those exuberant jumpers who join issue on Boxing Day.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

In the second OKBridge online challenge match Goldman and Soloway took on the Paviecks, father Richard and son Rich, US representative in recent World Junior Championships. OKBridge (www.okbridge.com) was devised in 1990 by Matt Clegg of San Diego, and, after four years of increasing popularity through word of mouth, launched commercially in 1994. At last count there were on average 75 virtual tables in play at any time of the day or night.

Dealer East Love all IMPs

W 4J
V 2S
S AKES6
E J10052

W ♦Q10883
V ♦53
S ♦AQ884
E ♦K652
♦VAQK1076
♦K73

W N E S
Goldman Pavieck Soloway Pavieck
2 NT Pass 4H 5C 5D
clubs — leaving him one trick short.

In practice West was unable to resist leading a top diamond, as one generally does holding an ace-king on lead against a slam. Now declarer ruffed, drew trumps and knocked out the ace of diamonds. I wonder if North (Pavieck senior) saw this coming when he tried Six Hearts.

Try a club lead: the best he can do is discard a spade from dummy, to make six hearts in hand, two top spades, two ruffs in dummy, and the king of clubs — leaving him one trick short.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD WATCHING

By Philip Howard

AMPELOPSIS

- a: Long-sightedness
- b: Late delivery
- c: A pseudo vine

FARTLEK

- a: A Nordic goblin
- b: A Munich beer festival
- c: Training for running

GODBUSH

- a: A beard
- b: A television evangelist
- c: A kind of mistletoe

Answers on page 38

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Britons through

Nigel Short and Michael Adams will meet in the semi-finals of the qualifying section of the Fide world championship in Groningen, Holland, after beating Mikhail Krasenkow and Loek Van Wely respectively. A British presence in the final is therefore guaranteed. Here are Short's two victories from his quarter-final.

White: Nigel Short
Black: Mikhail Krasenkow

Fide world championship, Groningen, December 1997
Sicilian Defence

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d5 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 Bb5 Nc6 5 e5 Nc5 6 Nf4 Bb7 7 Nc3 Nc6 8 Nc3 Nc5 9 Nc3 Nc6 10 Nc3 Nc5 11 Nc3 Nc6 12 Nc3 Nc5 13 Nc3 Nc6 14 Nc3 Nc5 15 Nc3 Nc6 16 Nc3 Nc5 17 Nc3 Nc6 18 Nc3 Nc5 19 Nc3 Nc6 20 Nc3 Nc5 21 Nc3 Nc6 22 Nc3 Nc5 23 Nc3 Nc6 24 Nc3 Nc5 25 Nc3 Nc6 26 Nc3 Nc5 27 Nc3 Nc6 28 Nc3 Nc5 29 Nc3 Nc6 30 Nc3 Nc5 31 Nc3 Nc6 32 Nc3 Nc5 33 Nc3 Nc6 34 Nc3 Nc5 35 Nc3 Nc6 36 Nc3 Nc5 37 Nc3 Nc6 38 Nc3 Nc5 39 Nc3 Nc6 40 Nc3 Nc5 41 Nc3 Nc6 42 Nc3 Nc5 43 Nc3 Nc6 44 Nc3 Nc5 45 Nc3 Nc6 46 Nc3 Nc5 47 Nc3 Nc6 48 Nc3 Nc5 49 Nc3 Nc6 50 Nc3 Nc5 51 Nc3 Nc6 52 Nc3 Nc5 53 Nc3 Nc6 54 Nc3 Nc5 55 Nc3 Nc6 56 Nc3 Nc5 57 Nc3 Nc6 58 Nc3 Nc5 59 Nc3 Nc6 60 Nc3 Nc5 61 Nc3 Nc6 62 Nc3 Nc5 63 Nc3 Nc6 64 Nc3 Nc5 65 Nc3 Nc6 66 Nc3 Nc5 67 Nc3 Nc6 68 Nc3 Nc5 69 Nc3 Nc6 70 Nc3 Nc5 71 Nc3 Nc6 72 Nc3 Nc5 73 Nc3 Nc6 74 Nc3 Nc5 75 Nc3 Nc6 76 Nc3 Nc5 77 Nc3 Nc6 78 Nc3 Nc5 79 Nc3 Nc6 80 Nc3 Nc5 81 Nc3 Nc6 82 Nc3 Nc5 83 Nc3 Nc6 84 Nc3 Nc5 85 Nc3 Nc6 86 Nc3 Nc5 87 Nc3 Nc6 88 Nc3 Nc5 89 Nc3 Nc6 90 Nc3 Nc5 91 Nc3 Nc6 92 Nc3 Nc5 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Full 11

Win £10,000 as a late Christmas present

The story so far...

It's a bit late to be making out a Christmas list, isn't it? But this is my Interactive Team Football list. I've got my 20 extra transfers burning a hole in my pocket.

For your FA Cup team? No, that's all done and dusted, with one exception. I'm talking about the 20 extra I got the other week for teams entered before December 13.

Well, you don't want to spend it all at once. The season has a long way to go.

Agreed; but I've just spent all week buying things for friends and relatives, and I think it's about time I gave myself a treat.

Who's on the list, then? You've crossed quite a few names out, I see.

Yes, I had Padovano down, but he's injured.

Your old striker jinks again.

Possibly. An unkink person would suggest that he and his old mate Lombardo fancied a trip home to Italy for Christmas.

Yes, you would have to be very low on Christmas spirit to suggest such a thing. Who else?

I was wondering if I should give in and get Negri. I don't like to follow the crowd, but he's got 107 points, for goodness' sake, and he shows no signs of slowing down.

And yet it was Durie who scored a hat-trick on Saturday, and he'd come a lot cheaper.

You read my mind. But then yesterday I knew who it was I was looking for.

And that was...?

Jurgen Klinsmann, of course. He'll be my team's talisman, and my FA Cup side's as well. It's going to be Ossie's dream all over again, as Jurgen inspires Spurs in all competitions.

He isn't even in the ITF lists yet, though.

No, but I'm not going to waste a transfer on an inferior player. I can wait.

Two things: the busy Christmas programme, and the year.

Good point about the Christmas games. Two in a week for the English Premiership clubs. Perhaps a striker looking at a couple of easy fixtures might be a good investment. But what's the year got to do with anything?

Sixty-one win the cup in a year with a one in it.

I meant at the end, of course.

Say what you mean, and mean what you say, then. And what about 1967? Spurs beat Chelsea 2-1.

Funny year, 1967: a lot of hallucinogenic substances around. Just because people thought they saw it...

Only a couple of weeks until the FA Cup league begins — and for the person who picks the best cup team, a handsome prize awaits



So it's Emley, then. In the wake of the Unibond League team's ejection of Lincoln City from the FA Cup in a second-round replay, supporters of West Ham, their third-round opponents, on their way to Blackburn on Saturday, were asking "Where is Emley, anyway?" and "Will the replay be at Huddersfield?" — mind you, doubt of their team's history of hiccups against lowly opposition.

There are foregone conclusions in the cup, but ITF entrants listening to the half-times at a game, or at home checking Ceefax, will experience more than the usual frisson as news comes through of underdogs taking a shock lead, or hanging on with minutes to go.

Many people have decided to enter a new team specifically for the ITF FA Cup League (including the Tennents Scottish Cup, which will earn ITF points from January 24). Any team entered from now on is entitled to 20 transfers, likely to be vital as favoured teams fall by the wayside.

Who will these teams be in the third round? Probably not West Ham, whatever their followers' fears: Wrexham, renowned cup fighters, won a replay at Upton Park last season, but the Hammers are formidable at home these days, and John Hartson, barring injury, would appear to be a good bet for a hatful of goals. Selhurst Park, on the

other hand, could stage two giant-killings in two days: Crystal Palace, without a league win at home, will be sweating before the visit of Scunthorpe United on the Saturday, while Wrexham visits south London the following

day to face unpredictable Wimbledon.

The meeting of Chelsea and Manchester United will be close, and it is a brave person who would select players from either team, although tight games, with replays a strong possibility, offer opportunities to get two appearances from a player before needing to think about a team change.

For those who want to register an FA Cup League team, the next entry form will appear in *The Times* on December 26.

NICK SZCZEPANIK

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resent

Full updated players lists and transfer guide

Careful examination of the Christmas fixtures may yield dividends in the transfer market for new players

At Pride Park, Derby County's newly-built home ground, a casual visitor can expect to hear a strange and alarming noise rolling around the stands, rising to a crescendo before being lost in a ghostly echo in the desolate wastes of the redeveloped industrial land that surrounds the stadium.

Poooooooommm!! It is most frequently heard after any action involving the team's Estonian goalkeeper, Mart Poom. The fact that Poom's surname is supposed to rhyme with "room" rather than "room" puts nobody off.

The Derby supporters who shout his name were no doubt disappointed that their team could only draw 0-0 with Crystal Palace on Saturday, but for Poom it completed a successful week that included two clean sheets, the goalless draw at Newcastle in midweek helped any ITF entrant with Poom as their goalkeeper to a total of 14 points — three for each goalless half, and two appearance points.

It provided a timely reminder that careful consideration of the fixture lists can be rewarding. Two transfers are used by bringing in a player for one specific game; a player due to play a succession of games against potentially unthreatening opposition can save a potentially useful transfer later in the season.

This week, the Christmas



SKY SPORTS
interactive

programme sees all FA Carling Premiership clubs playing twice, giving teams the opportunity to make up lost ground, or open up a decisive gap, with two three-point hauls. In ITF too, a player hitting form could net you enough points to jump thousands of places. Although there are no New Year's Day fixtures in England this year, next weekend sees some interesting pairs of games.

Poom and Derby face Newcastle United at home on Boxing Day and Barnsley away next Sunday, and will be optimistic of shutting both out. Tottenham, a team down in the dumps after big defeats by Chelsea and Coventry, could be boosted by their victory over Barnsley in a fixture many tipped them to lose and the news that Jurgen

Klinsmann, their former favourite, will be rejoining them on loan. Add to that the avowed intention of David Ginola to force his way back into the France international picture before summer's World Cup, and an away game against out-of-form Aston Villa and the north London derby at White Hart Lane look attractive propositions.

Manchester United are unlikely to be quaking in their boots at the prospect of receiving Everton, first away win of the season or not, nor of a trip to Highfield Road, despite Coventry's four goals in their last home match.

Chelsea, however, might be a team to avoid if you are looking to plunder players. They play at The Dell next Monday, and could, despite Southampton's recent improvement, continue their recent goalscoring form away from home.

However, their Boxing Day visitors are Wimbledon, who have won the last two District Line derbies at Stamford Bridge, two years ago to the day they finished with ten men (Vinnie Jones having been dismissed for a foul on Rudi Gullit) but still triumphed 2-1, and took the honours last autumn with a powerful performance, winning 4-2. The horses for courses argument is a powerful one in football.

■ ITF helpline: 01882 702720.



Mart Poom of Derby County, who accumulated an impressive 14 points over the week

THIS WEEK'S MOVES

There are no changes to the ITF lists this week

HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER

YOU MAY transfer as and when you wish according to your team transfer allowance. If a player or manager moves teams during the season, it may affect the composition of your team. You may adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points.

EACH TEAM that was entered at the start of the season was allocated 60 transfers for the season and each team registering after that date had its number of transfers reduced by three per week up to December 13. Teams registered before noon that day were allocated an extra 20 transfers. Teams registered since then and from now on will be allocated 20 transfers for the rest of the season.

THE LINE is open now and will remain open for the rest of the season. You may only make transfers by using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need ten digits for your PIN which you will have to tap in (not speak). Follow the simple instructions and tap in the five-digit codes of the players that you are transferring.

YOU MAY make up to four transfers per call but may make as many calls as you wish to achieve the required amount of transfers.

TRANSFERS made before 12 noon on any day will become effective for matches starting after that time. Transfers made after 12 noon will become effective for matches starting after 12 noon the following day.

YOUR NEW player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.

CALLS COST 50p per minute and calls from a telephone box cost approximately twice as much.

Transfer number: 0891 884 628.
Outside the UK: +44 990 200 538.

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week Total
10101	J Leighton	Aberdeen	2.00	2
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	0
10301	M Boanich	Aston Villa	3.00	0
10401	D Watson	Barnsley	1.00	0
10501	T Flowers	Blackburn R	3.50	8
10601	K Branagan	Bolton W	1.50	0
10701	S Kerr	Celtic	4.00	0
10702	J Gould	Celtic	3.50	8
10801	E De Goey	Chelsea	3.00	3
10901	S Ogizovic	Coventry City	1.50	0
11001	C Nash	Crystal Palace	0.25	0
11102	K Miller	Crystal Palace	2.00	7
11101	M Poom	Derby County	1.50	14
11201	S Dykstra	Dundee United	2.00	3
11301	I Westwater	Dunfermline	1.00	0
11401	N Southall	Everton	2.00	0
11501	G Rousset	Hearts	3.50	-11
11601	C Reid	Hibernian	1.50	-9
11702	O Gottschalken	Hibernian	1.50	0
11701	D Lekovic	Kilmarnock	1.00	8
11801	N Martyn	Leeds United	3.50	8
11901	K Keller	Leicester City	5.00	1
12001	D James	Liverpool	3.50	8
12101	P Schmeichel	Manchester Utd	5.00	16
12201	S Howie	Motherwell	1.00	0
12301	S Given	Newcastle United	3.00	0
12401	A Goram	Rangers	5.00	0
12501	K Pressman	Sheffield Wed	2.00	-7
12702	P Jones	Southampton	1.00	2
12801	A Main	St Johnstone	0.50	0
12801	I Walker	Tottenham H	2.50	8
12801	L Mitroko	West Ham United	2.00	0
13001	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	2.50	0

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week Total
30101	B O'Neill	Aberdeen	2.00	0
30201	T Adams	Arsenal	3.00	0
30202	M Keown	Arsenal	3.00	0
30203	G Grimandi	Arsenal	2.00	0
30204	S Bould	Arsenal	3.00	0
30301	G SGoutage	Aston Villa	3.00	0
30302	U Ehiogu	Aston Villa	3.00	23
30401	A De Zeeuw	Barnsley	1.00	-2
30402	A Menezes	Barnsley	0.50	-3
30403	M Appleby	Blackburn R	3.00	5
30502	C Hendry	Blackburn R	2.50	5
30504	S Hendzlo	Blackburn R	2.00	0
30505	T Pedersen	Blackburn R	2.00	0
30601	G Taggart	Bolton W	1.50	0
30602	G Bergson	Bolton W	1.00	-1
30603	C Faizlough	Bolton W	1.00	-1
30604	M Fish	Bolton W	1.50	0
30605	B Lumbard	Bolton W	1.50	0
30701	E Aronni	Celtic	1.50	5
30702	M MacKey	Celtic	3.00	0
30703	A Stubbs	Celtic	3.00	5
30704	M Riener	Celtic	3.00	29
30801	F Leboeuf	Chelsea	3.00	5
30802	M Duberry	Chelsea	3.00	1
30803	S Clarke	Chelsea	2.50	1
30804	B Lumbard	Chelsea	2.50	0
30901	L Dalah	Coventry City	1.50	0
30902	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	0
30903	P Williams	Coventry City	1.50	0
31001	A Roberts	Crystal Palace	1.50	4
31002	A Linighan	Crystal Palace	0.75	4
31003	D Tutte	Crystal Palace	0.75	0
31004	D Wilson	Crystal Palace	1.00	4
31005	D Wilcock	Crystal Palace	1.00	4
31006	J Hunt	Derby County	2.50	4
31007	I Stivens	Derby County	2.50	4
31008	J Laurenson	Derby County	1.50	0
31009	S Pressley	Dundee Utd	2.00	1
31010	G Shields	Dunfermline	1.50	-1
31011	D Wilson	Everton	2.50	0
31012	S Billie	Everton	2.00	5
31013	D McAllister	Everton	1.50	4
31014	C Tille	Everton	1.50	4
31015	D War	Hearts	2.00	-5
31016	J Hughes	Hibernian	2.00	-4
31017	D Wethersell	Leeds Utd	2.50	4
31018	G Heale	Leeds Utd	2.00	5
31019	R Molenaar	Leeds Utd	2.00	5
31020	L Radice	Leeds Utd	2.00	0
31021	M Elliott	Leicester City	3.50	0
31022	P Kaasmark	Leicester City	2.00	4
31023	S Walsh	Leicester City	2.50	0
31024	S Prior	Leicester City	2.00	-1
31025	M Wright	Liverpool	3.00	5
31026	D Matteo	Liverpool	3.00	5
31027	B Kvarme	Liverpool	3.00	4
31028	H Berg	Manchester Utd	3.50	0
31029	M May	Manchester Utd	3.50	0
31030	P McAllister	Manchester Utd	3.50	10
31031	P Albert	Newcastle Utd	2.50	5
31032	D Peacock	Newcastle Utd	3.00	1
31033	S Howey	Newcastle Utd	3.00	5
31034	A Pistone	Newcastle Utd	3.00	5
31035	S Porrini	Rangers	3.50	-1
31036	J Bjorklund	Rangers	3.00	6
31037	L Amoruso	Rangers	4.00	0
31038	R Gough	Rangers	4.00	0
31039	D Walker	Sheffield Wed	2.00	-3
31040	J Newsome	Sheffield Wed	2.00	-3
31041	P Atherton	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0
31042	R Dryden	Southampton	1.00	0
31043	C Lundekvam	Southampton	1.00	0
31044	K Monikou	Southampton	1.00	0
31045	S McCluskey	St Johnstone	0.50	0
31046	S Campbell	Tottenham H	2.50	5
31047	J Scales	Tottenham H	2.00	0
31048	R Vega	Tottenham H	2.00	0
31049	C Calderwood	Tottenham H	2.00	5
31050</td				

Charles rules as Dolly takes up challenge

By JENNY MACARTHUR

PETER CHARLES, of Ireland, the former European champion, brought the final afternoon of the Olympia championships to a stirring conclusion yesterday when he and his French-bred mare, Dolly, won the Eurosport Christmas Hamper after a breathtaking round against the clock.

Charles, who adopted Irish nationality in 1992 after being told he had no chance of making Britain's Olympic team, admitted he could not have gone any faster round the ten-fence course. "I watched Ludger [Beerbaum] and decided he had won enough this week," he said.

Beerbaum, the European champion, who relegated Charles to second place in the Volvo World Cup qualifier on Saturday, had the disadvantage of going first on this occasion. His time of 44.27sec was beaten by Rodrigo Pessoa, of Brazil, in 43.82sec; on Loro Piana Wanda, and then by Britain's Di Lampard on Flaminia in 43.88sec.

Charles, one of the last to ride, was giving Dolly — a horse more usually associated with grands prix and Nations cups — her first real test in this type of speed class. "Olympia is her last show for two months, so I knew she could have a good rest afterwards," he said.

The versatile mare responded with a gloriously uninhibited display of jumping, turning to the last fence with barely a stride before take-off, to finish in 41.98sec. "I asked her all the questions and she came up with all the answers," Charles said, "but I wouldn't drop her down to this level too often — she's too good a horse."

While the British selectors rue a lost talent, the Hampshire-based Charles said he had "not the slightest regret" about his defection to Ireland. Now the mainstay of the Irish team, he has one of the most envied strings in the sport.

In addition to Dolly, it includes seven-year-olds Nusaria, whose display of jumping in the Volvo World Cup was one of the highlights of the week, and Carnaville, who was third in the Paris Grand Prix last month; T'Aine, aged 9, the winner of more than £80,000 this year; and La Ina, the 1995 European champion, who has recovered from a leg injury sustained last summer. "I wouldn't swap any of them," Charles said.

Earlier, Britain's Rob



Beerbaum gained his first success at Olympia when he and Lionel, his American-bred former racehorse, were joint winners of the Christmas Eve Six Bar with Willi Meligier, of Switzerland, on Domina. Both riders were clear in the fifth and final round when the last fence stood at 6ft 4in.

Meligier, the Olympic silver medallist on Calvado, had never tested Domina over this height. The German-bred mare, aged 9, has had two foals and has only been showjumping for two years. But Domina has courage, as she showed on Sunday when she finished joint third in the Vink Christmas Masters, and yesterday, when the mare, the first to go in the final round, soared effortlessly over the four fences.

The Dutch-born Hockstra, who is based at Speeldurst in Kent, had intended to run Lionel in the Grand Prix yesterday, but, as the horse is not fast against the clock, decided he would have more chance in the Six Bar. "He's a versatile horse with plenty of scope, but he jumps best when going slowly," he said.

That was soon evident. Hockstra had the partisan Olympia crowd gasping in disbelief as he approached the huge line of fences at no more than a hand canter. But Lionel, who jumped seven foot in Madrid and Biarritz this year, skimmed down the line, clearing the last with inches to spare, to loud applause.

THE TIMES TUESDAY DECEMBER 23 1997

EF Language confirms increasing dominance and looks likely overall winner

Cayard more than a match in tight finish

BY EDWARD GORMAN
SAILING CORRESPONDENT

NEVER before have so many boats finished a Whitbread Round the World Race leg in such a tight order as last night when Paul Cayard, on *EF Language*, led a charge for the line off the Sydney Opera House to win his second leg in three starts and confirm his increasing dominance in this race.

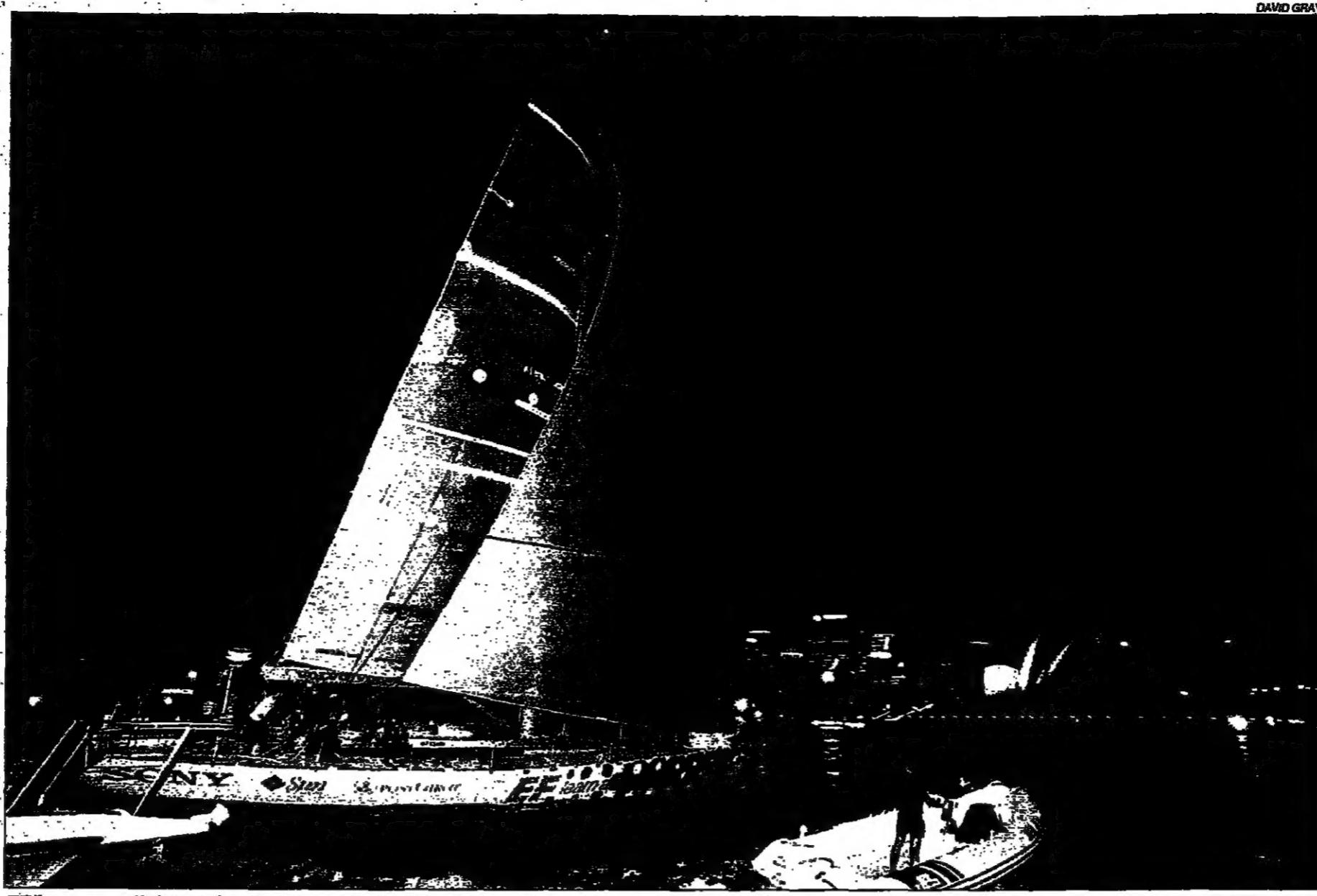
After an agonisingly close nine-day contest from Fremantle, the first five boats finished the 2,250-mile course in the space of just ten minutes. *Swedish Match*, the second leg winner skippered by Gunnar Kraatz, who was overtaken by Cayard within a few miles of the finish, was second, five minutes behind the Swedish boat. Then came George Collins on *Chessie Racing* a minute later, Grant Dalton on *Merit Cup* a further two minutes back and Knut Frostad on *Innovation Kvaerner* after another two minutes.

While Cayard was able to celebrate a potentially race-winning lead, Great Britain's Lawrie Smith and his young crew on *Silk Cut* were coming to terms with what appears to be a mortal blow to their hopes of taking overall honours, or even a place in the top three.

Going into the last 12 hours of the leg, Smith was third as the yachts rounded up the New South Wales coast, driven by a strong south-westerly breeze. According to Smith they blew a spinnaker and also picked a course too close to the shore, finding themselves slipping back through the fleet.

If they had finished third, the *Silk Cut* team would have been fourth overall in Sydney and just 40 points behind Cayard. But the points system, which has given Smith comfort for his two fourth places, dealt the Lynmouth-based skipper a cruel blow. Finishing the leg in seventh position, 26 minutes behind Cayard, has dropped him to sixth overall, just 98 points behind the *EF Language*.

"I suppose I am more upset than Grant [Dalton]," a dejected Smith said. "It was a very close leg and *Silk Cut*, *Toshiba* and *Chessie* in the north were looking very good at times. We got into third place and were a little bit unlucky that the wind came in from behind. In the last 100 miles we screwed up, breaking a sail, and we were too close inshore. When the boats are



EF Language sails into Sydney harbour to give Paul Cayard, the skipper, his second win in three legs after a thrilling race in which only ten minutes separated five boats

close and you are a little off the pace, you come seventh, not third." Given the pre-race form guide, it is hard to believe that Smith is already so far down the pack after just a third of the nine legs. It must be particularly galling for him that Cayard, in a boat Smith prepared before he abandoned Team EF, is now sweeping all before him.

Cayard, meanwhile, was delighted to emerge again at the front after

a difficult leg when he and his navigator, Mark Rudiger, were rarely out of the top three. "Given

Smith's input. "He picked it," Cayard noted.

Dalton arrived relieved not to be

in Smith's shoes but realistic about his chances in the remainder of the race. The Auckland-based skipper has become convinced that his boat is slow by about 0.3knots in moderate upwind conditions and is beginning to think he chose the wrong hull of the two designed for him by Bruce Farr.

Dalton is now fourth overall, 74

points behind Cayard, but admits catching him will be difficult. "I've always felt we'd get the measure of *Kvaerner* and *Swedish Match*, but beating *EF Language* is going to be hard," he said.

Dalton is impressed by the overall standard in this small, high-quality

solution. "The girls [EF Education] are

sailing really well. If they were in

the last race they would have won it

on this form," he said. Among other disappointed skippers will have been Britain's Paul Standridge, seventh overall in *Toshiba*, who had his crew well up in the running for much of the leg, only to see it all go wrong towards the end, again partly as a result of blowing a spinnaker and getting too close to the shore on the run up the coast.

Standings, page 36

SWIMMING

Smith out of world title race

By CRAIG LORD

MICHELLE SMITH, the triple Olympic champion, has withdrawn from the world championships in Perth, Australia, next month because she has not recovered completely from a whiplash injury sustained in a car crash last October.

Smith, 28, whose spectacular improvement at a late stage in a long career made her the most controversial figure of the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, said yesterday that the accident, in County Carlow on Halloween night, had ruined her preparation.

The decision to miss the world championships, from January 8 to 18, was taken after a disappointing performance in Bordeaux, France, last weekend.

Smith, who now competes under her married name of De Bruin, said the decision had been "pure heartache" for her. "Since Atlanta, these championships (Perth) have been my main focus — but the injuries I received at the end of October have put paid to that dream," she said. "My training has been severely curtailed since then and this weekend's tournament in Bordeaux made it clear how badly that has affected me."

Smith won the 200 metres and 400 metres medley and 400 metres freestyle in Atlanta and was third in the 200 metres butterfly. In Bordeaux last weekend, she swam the 200 metres medley in 2min 26sec, about 13sec slower than her Olympic-winning time.

There have been serious doubts about Smith's ability to repeat her Atlanta achievements after poor performances at the European championships in Spain in August.

Wu Yanyan and Chen Yan, of China, last month broke the 200 metres and 400 metres world medley records, respectively swimming 4sec and 5sec faster than Smith's best efforts in Atlanta. Having taken 11sec off her best time for the 400 metres medley in little more than two seasons, Smith would be hard pressed to find much more.

However, Smith obviously has no thoughts of retiring. She confirmed yesterday her intention to defend her Olympic titles in Sydney in 2000.

RUGBY UNION: LEADING CLUBS HAMSTRUNG BY LACK OF SPECTATOR CAPACITY AT TRADITIONAL HOMES

Enhanced facilities vital to secure Bath's future

David Hands, rugby correspondent, says there is big money to be made in Europe but most British sides are handicapped



Swift: fears for future

commercial viability of the club and to tell the shareholders, in particular Andrew Brownsword, the owner, where we stand. But I don't know whether, in the next few years, I'm looking at improve-

ments to the Rec, moving outside the city or what. If we knew we had a future at a decent stadium in Bath, we would be able to get on with development schemes in schools and the community as a whole which, at present, we can't."

It is of considerable concern, also, that the club has to price as high as it does to come anywhere near viability, in the knowledge that spectators will not always get value for money. Those spectators have been remarkably loyal. Indeed, many made the trip to Brive in October to see Bath beaten 29-12, not knowing that the two clubs would meet again in Bordeaux on January 31 to contest the final.

It will be to Bath's advantage that they have already beaten Brive in their home pool game, by 27-25, so they know them to be fallible but equally they will have ad-

mired the huge effort the men of the Correze made to draw Sunday's semi-final in extra time and so beat Toulouse on

tries scored — in a stadium which will, next year, be able to hold 36,000.

Stratford are hoping that both Paul Wallace and Philippe Sella will be fit to play Leicester at Vicarage Road on Boxing Day.

"Every bone in my body

Operation rules Loader out for season

CHRISTIAN LOADER, the Swansea and Wales prop, is to have a neck operation this week that will rule him out for the rest of the season. Loader, 24 and capped 19 times, was injured playing against New Zealand last month. He also had to return home early from the tour of North America last summer, but there is no long-term threat to his career.

Brian Johnson, the Newbury wing, has the chance to clinch a permanent move to

Kingsholm on Saturday when he plays for Gloucester against Richmond in the Allied Dunbar Premiership. Johnson, 25, the Army captain, is on loan to the club, who want to sign him on a full-time basis.

He replaces the injured Raphael Saint-Andre against Richmond. Philippe Saint-Andre is also out with a thigh injury sustained while leading France against South Africa, but Dave Sims returns to the Gloucester second row.

CRICKET: FORMER SPINNER PROMOTED AT THE OVAL AS ENGLAND SELECTOR MOVES NORTH IN COACHING ROLE

Durham sign Gooch as batting adviser

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

GRAHAM GOOCH has joined Durham as a consultant and batting coach for next season. Gooch, manager of the England A team that starts a three-month tour of Kenya and Sri Lanka in January, will join the county for pre-season training in early April.

"Helping Durham to develop its team and local talent to be more successful fits in with the aim of improving the England team," the England selector and former captain said. "The success achieved at Essex was based on good youth development policies and I am sure that is the way forward for Durham."

David Boon, the Durham captain, praised Gooch's appointment. "The club and team will benefit from Graham's input," he said. "It is excellent that the club has

Medlycott takes over Surrey first-team role

BY SIMON WILDE

SURREY announced yesterday that Keith Medlycott, their second XI coach, will take charge of first-team affairs next season in succession to David Gilbert, who left three months ago to become director of coaching at Sussex.

Medlycott, one of several recent spinners whose careers founded at the Oval, has been appointed for three years on a full-time basis, which means that he will not go back to Northern Transvaal, the team he coaches in the winter, once he returns to England in late March.

Surrey quickly thought again after Allan Border, the former Australia captain, turned down the club because of other commitments, including coaching the Australia Under-19 team in the Youth World Cup next month.

Tendulkar turns the tables on Sri Lanka

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

INDIA, still smarting from losing their three games in the Champions' Trophy in Sharjah this month, answered their critics yesterday by comfortably accounting for Sri Lanka, the World Cup holders, in the first of a three-match one-day international series.

Sachin Tendulkar, the captain, stroked a delightful 82 not out off 86 balls as India easily overhauled Sri Lanka's modest total of 172 for nine.

India won by seven wickets, reaching their target of only 37.5 overs in a match reduced to 45 overs a side after morning fog in Guwahati, India.

Tendulkar, who put on 68 for the third wicket with Anil Kumble, the spinner, and the batsman Rahul Dravid among those omitted.

Debasish Mohanty, a medium-pace bowler, dismissed Sanath Jayasuriya, Marvan Atapattu and Aravinda de Silva as Sri Lanka struggled to 30 for three after being sent in. Only a defiant 68 by Roshan Mahanama enabled them to reach a reasonable total.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: RUNNING BACK'S RECORD ENDS FAIRYTALE OF NEW YORK

Sanders seals play-off place

Oliver Holt enjoys the countdown as final weekend throws up a thrilling duel

AMERICAN sport has made a fine art of saving the best for last. From buzzer-beaters in the final few frantic seconds of the deciding game of basketball's NBA finals to a home run in the final inning of the World Series in baseball, it has all been done. On Sunday, gridiron came up with the goods, too, when the last weekend of the regular season duly produced its most dramatic game so far.

The Detroit Lions and the New York Jets were playing for high stakes at the Pontiac Silverdome. A place in the play-offs for either team hinged on the result and sentimentalists everywhere were willing on the fairytale ending and hoping that the Jets could complete one of the most spectacular transitions ever seen in the space of 12 months by making it to the post-season.

In the end, though, it was a different kind of fairytale that came true in Michigan. This was a home-town story, another mark in those sporting history books in which American statisticians are so fond of scribbling, a record whose worth transcends the weekly craze for establishing new targets of excellence in the National Football League (NFL).

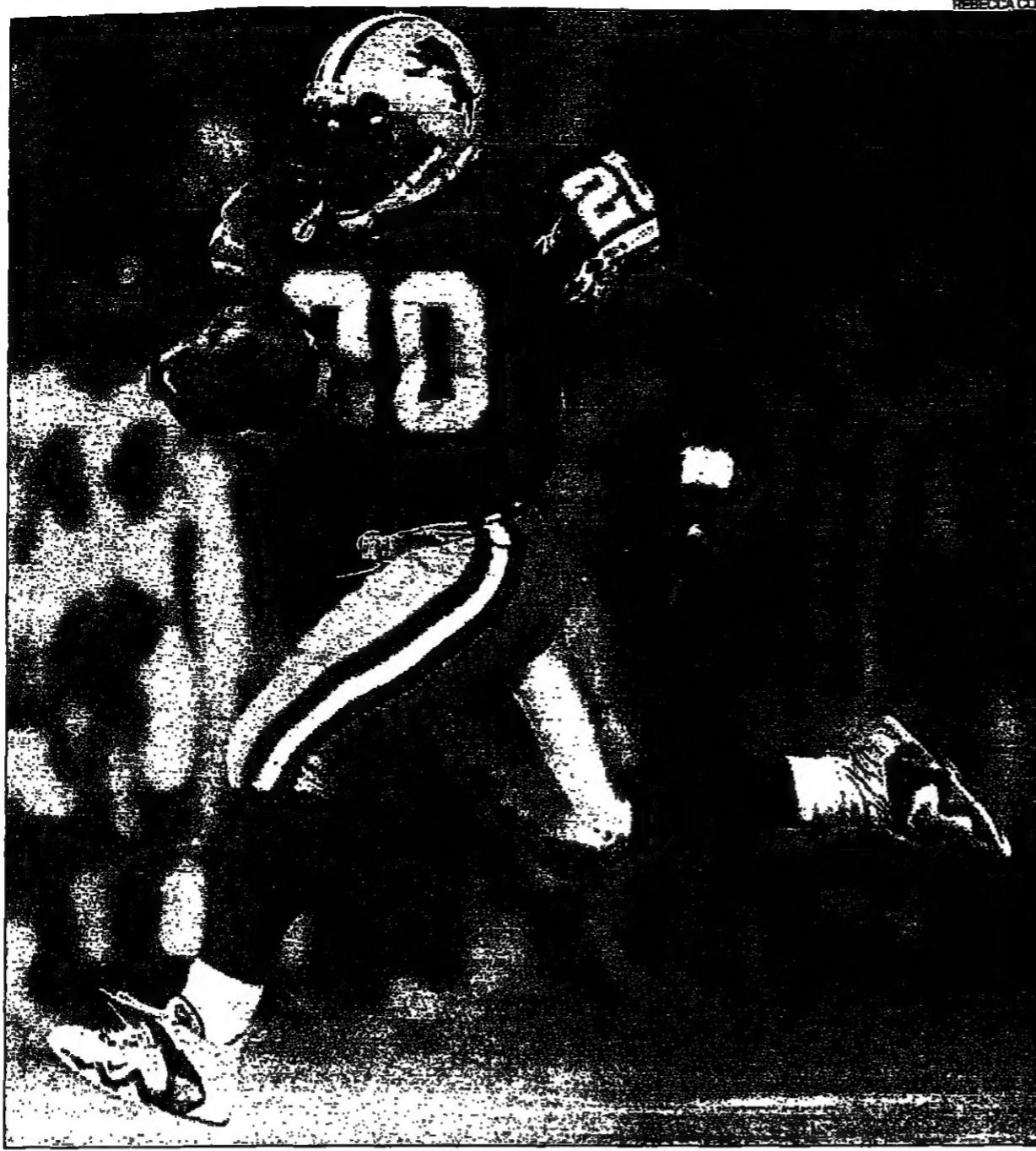
Barry Sanders, the Detroit running back, had started the game needing 131 rushing yards to become only the third player in the history of the sport to run for 2,000 yards in a regular season.

Only O.J. Simpson, who did it for the Buffalo Bills in 1973, and Eric Dickerson, of the Los Angeles Rams, who set the record in 1984, had achieved it in the past.

The Jets, who won only one of their 16 games last season and were the laughing stock of the league before their new coach, Bill Parcells, brought about such a startling change, went into an early 10-0 lead and with Sanders stuck on only 23 yards late in the third quarter, it seemed it was going to be New York's day.

But then Sanders, who is sure to be one of the leading candidates for the NFL Most Valuable Player award, broke free for a 47-yard run and scored with a 15-yard touch-down scramble a couple of plays later.

He broke the 2,000-yard barrier with an unspectacular two-yard run up the middle with just two minutes of the game to go and his team hanging on to the 13-10 advantage that was to be the final score. "It's hard to explain



Sanders, the Lions running back, becomes only the third man to break the 2,000-yard barrier in the regular season

what it means to me," Sanders said. "There's gratification, satisfaction, and not just for me but for everybody."

"I'm just lucky I'm the one carrying the ball with some great guys blocking for me. It is a great achievement for all of us and now we just have to

do what we can in the playoffs."

The victory, though, was marred for the Lions by a fourth-quarter head injury to their linebacker, Reggie Brown, who was left lying on the field unconscious after a jarring collision during a tack-

ing. "I think everybody would give up the game and the 2,000 yards if we could have Reggie healthy," Jeff Hardman said.

The Lions' victory squeezed them into the first round of the play-offs where they will meet the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in Florida next Sunday. The Buccaneers, one of the surprise teams of the season, clinched their place in the sun with a 31-15 win over the Chicago Bears that salvaged a season that seemed to be turning sour after a marvellous start.

The Jets' loss handed Wildcard places to the Miami Dolphins and the New England Patriots, who played each other late last night at the former Joe Robbie Stadium and will meet again in the play-offs next Sunday. Last night's victors will have secured home-field advantage for next weekend's meeting.

The strongest teams in both the National and American Football Conferences, the

Green Bay Packers and the Kansas City Chiefs respectively, both won convincingly. For the Packers, their victory over the Bills was not enough to wrest home-field advantage throughout the play-offs from the San Francisco 49ers in the NFC. The way the 49ers have been playing recently, though — they lost 39-9 to the Seattle Seahawks on Sunday night — the honour may pass to Green Bay sooner rather than later.

The Chiefs' win over the New Orleans Saints at least ensured they would play all their post-season matches at Arrowhead Stadium and despite the encouraging late-season form of the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Jacksonville Jaguars, they will be the favourites to join the Packers in the Super Bowl in San Diego on January 25.

The match between the Lions and the Jets, Barry Sanders and all, will take some beating but the NFL is bound to try.

NFL DETAILS

Western division						
	W	L	T	PF	PA	
Kansas City	13	3	0	375	232	
Denver	12	4	0	472	282	
Seattle	11	5	0	373	296	
Oakland	11	5	4	324	319	
San Diego	4	12	0	268	421	

National Conference						
Eastern division						
	W	L	T	PF	PA	
Miami	10	5	1	307	265	
Washington	8	7	1	327	289	
Philadelphia	8	7	1	317	372	
Dallas	6	10	0	304	314	
Atlanta	4	12	0	285	378	

Central division						
	W	L	T	PF	PA	
Green Bay	13	3	0	422	282	
Tampa Bay	10	6	0	325	306	
Denver	9	7	0	323	306	
Minnesota	7	9	1	354	345	
Chicago	4	12	0	263	421	

* including last night's match. Miami v New England

† division title

‡ play-off places

§ Eastern division

|| Central division

** Western division

†† National Conference

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L U	Conditions Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (Spn °C)	Last snow
ANDORRA					
Solden	35	75	good crusty good	far	1 2/12
(Generally good skiing with most lifts open)					
AUSTRIA					
Kitzbühel	0	75	hard heavy wet cloud	2 2/12	
Mayrhofen	0	75	good heavy closed cloud	4 2/12	
(Snow in good shape on both mountains above 1,600m)					
FRANCE					
Alpe d'Huez	60	140	good varied good	line -1 2/12	
(Very good skiing in all areas except Aurosi)					
Avoriaz	70	80	good powder	sun 3 2/12	
(Great skiing and snow above 1,800m)					
Meribel	25	40	tur poor	art sun 3 2/12	
(Rocks poking through; on most pates snow needed)					
Tignes	50	145	good varied good	sun 4 2/12	
(Soft powder snow on many pistes)					
ITALY					
Cervinia	30	200	good powder good	line 0 2/12	
(Excellent skiing off piste)					
Livigno	25	140	good powder good	line 4 2/12	
(Excellent snow on nearly all runs)					
SWITZERLAND					
Mürren	60	80	good powder good	sun 0 2/12	
(Near perfect conditions at the moment)					

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 33

AMPELOPSIS

(c) A genus of climbing plants allied to the vine. (With small initials) a plant of this genus, as one of the various species of Virginia creeper. From the Greek *ampelos* a vine + *opsis* appearance. *Coumaria Mackenii*, *Sinister Street*, 1914. The tea-tray gothic of Balliol, and Trinity with its municipal ampelopis.

FARTLEK

(c) A method of training for middle- and long-distance running, in which the athlete runs over country, mixing fast with slow work. From the Swedish *fart speed + lek play*. "The essence of a successful fartlek session is enjoyment in hard but varying work."

GODBUSS

(c) A Jamaican name for several plants of the mistletoe family, Loranthaceae. "But what interests me most in this place is a flourishing Mistletoe, or God-bush, as the negroes call it."

BIDON

(c) A container for liquids. Specifically, a wooden cask, a bottle or canteen for water or wine, or an oil drum or petrol tin. Hence *bidonville*, a shanty-town built of oil drums or petrol tins. "Get the case filled up. Adèle left me two bidons for emergencies."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

I Bf6 and mate with 2 Rds+ and 3 Rhs can only be prevented at ruinous material cost.

ICE HOCKEY

Storm feel the heat from Devils

By NORMAN DE MESQUITA

MANCHESTER Storm will go into the new year top of the Superleague, but only just. Beaten 7-1 by Cardiff Devils on Sunday, they have won only four of their past nine league games and the fine form they showed in their European League run is but a memory.

After a goalless first period, the Devils took a 2-0 lead in the second and scored a third goal in the first minute of the final session. The Storm's only goal came a minute later but it was Cardiff all the way from then on with four goals in 11 minutes, the last three while Manchester players were in the penalty box.

Ayr Scottish Eagles are the form team and are unbeaten in their past seven league and cup outings. A three-goal first period was the foundation for a 6-0 defeat of Bracknell Bees, with Rob Dogson saving 21 shots that came his way for his first shut-out of the season. Mark Montanari was the Eagles' attacking inspiration, assisting on four goals.

The win took the Storm into second place, a point behind the Devils, with two games in hand. Nottingham Panthers are a point further back in third.

Newcastle Cobras continue to languish in last place and completed another miserable weekend, beaten 4-2 by Sheffield Steelers, their third successive home defeat. The Cobras lost their first five league games, all away from home; they were expected to improve once they returned home, but that has not been the case.

TELEVISION CHOICE

His wonderful life

James Stewart - *Last of the Good Guys* BBC2, 6.35pm

To coincide with the current season of his films on BBC and the cinema's release of the much-loved *It's a Wonderful Life*, a profile of the man himself. Legend has it that Stewart once asked a doctor to inject something into his vocal cords to make his famous throat drawl even further for that great Senate scene in *Mr Smith Goes to Washington*. "But I never believed it," says George C. Scott, one of many Hollywood luminaries paying tribute. "If he wasn't actor enough to do what the hell was he doing after 80 pictures?" Jimmy Stewart died in July, aged 89, and this documentary, shot in his home town of Indiana, highlights the diversity of his roles — from western hero to psychopath to Mr Nice Guy. Clips are interlaced with the memories of co-stars, directors, and members of Stewart's own family.

The Pale Horse

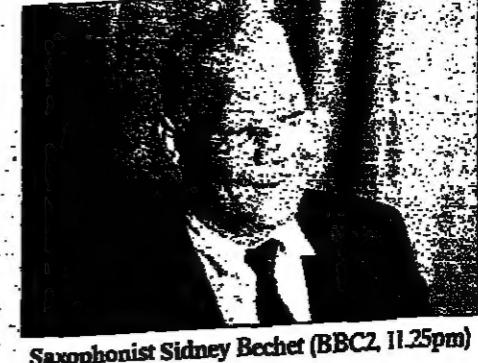
ITV, 9.00pm

Oh good. An Agatha Christie for Christmas. Not too much violence, a plot to challenge the little grey cells and — thankfully with this one — no round-ups in the library of stately home guests by impossibly polite policemen. That said, this is not vintage Christie — rather more, in trying for a spot of tenderness (it's set in the Swinging Sixties) this is neither fish nor fowl. An amateur production of *Macbeth* sets the scene for a distinctly odd story about murder by amo-suggestion. Or so it would appear to the plucky hero Colin Buchanan, who is trying to clear himself of the allegations of a priest, a woman, a man and a host of names (Jean Marais, Ruth Madoc and Maggie Shevlin) who all seem to have much to answer for...

Secret Lives: Versace, the King of Excess

Channel 4, 9.30pm

What, when all is said and done in this exotic profile of the great designer, is so secret? We are still no nearer to learning the true identity of Gianni Versace's murderer in Miami fast July. Some note that the FBI never followed up one classic clue: the two bullets to the back of the head and the dead bird found near the body are Mafia



Saxophonist Sidney Bechet (BBC2, 11.25pm)

trademarks. We also learn that this absurdly rich and flamboyant Italian was under long-term investigation into alleged tax fraud and illicit ownership of state-owned antiquities. Where this documentary scores is not in its revelations and/or macabre story: how a gay, sensitive young man from the mean streets of southern Italy became "the first designer superstar" or, as he himself put it, "half royalty, half rock 'n' roll".

Treat It Gentle: Sidney Bechet

BBC2 11.25pm

The arts strand riffs into a hat-trick of goodies for Christmas with a profile of the great jazz clarinetist and saxophonist Sidney Bechet. When Bechet died in 1959 more than 3,000 mourners attended his funeral in July last. Pins. Yet at one time his reputation, along with those of other great pioneers of the New Orleans era, had faded almost to nothing. When Wendy Allen — no mean trad band in herself — used Bechet's music (with his innovative soprano sax) on the soundtrack of his film *Stardust Memories*, a new generation discovered Bechet. Allen is among those who pay tribute in this terrific celebration of Bechet's birth — 100 years ago in the red light district of

And stars appeared out of the North West

There must be a generation of young people growing up believing that Liverpool is most famous not for the Beatles but for the Adelphi hotel, its bossy manageress and its foul-mouthed, vegetarian-hating cook (or cewk as we must call him). So to show that they have a cute sense of irony, the producers of Hotel (BBC1) married these two great Liverpudian icons last night by giving us a glimpse of the annual Beatles convention that takes over the Adelphi for one weekend a year.

It was clearly the producers' little joke to end their stay at the Adelphi with lookalike McCartneys and Lemons singing verses such as "If there's anything that you want, if there's anything I can do, just call on me, and I'll send it along/With love from me to you."

The juxtaposition of this music-flooding through hotel which — at least from what we have seen — treats its guests the way a dog

treats a lamppost, was clearly meant to be ironic. Wasn't it? It felt like the televisual equivalent of Magritte's surrealist painting of a pipe under which are written the words "Ceci n'est pas une pipe".

Of course, the Adelphi will give you anything you want, as long as it's not polite service, a vegetarian meal or the benefit of the doubt. Running a hotel is a military operation, but the Adelphi has gone one step further and decided to treat its guests like the enemy.

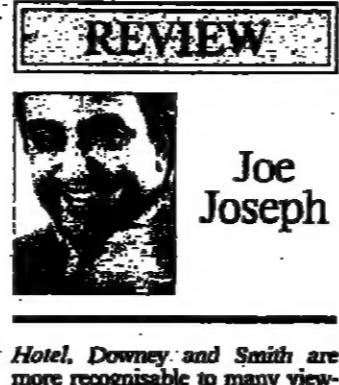
"He's just a nuisance," said the I'm-taking-no-nonsense-from-you lady at reception to the television cameras after we had witnessed a guest asking if he might be moved to a more congenial room. No, he couldn't, she told him bluntly.

One problem with Hotel is that it has done what it set out to do pretty well. Look at its ratings: the trouble is that its success will now entice other programme-makers to seek out their own "docu-soap"

subjects; and there are only so many of these we can stomach. And there are only so many "TV stars" that can be manufactured overnight from programmes about driving schools and hotels.

Searching for a promo to punctuate for its Christmas broadcasts, the BBC has doctoried a version of its brilliant Perfect Day musical collage, adding a winter park backdrop and snow-covered trees. Next month we'll see a promo in which the Dalai Lama *buoys* the World Service time, *Lillibullero*.

But it can only be a matter of time before the stars that television channels choose to plug their promos will be people such as the Adelphi's general manager, Eileen Downey, or travel reps in Spain, or Dover port officials, or other "docu-soap" faces: it's quite probable that, with more than eight million viewers tuning in to



Joe Joseph

Hotel, Downey and Smith are more recognisable to many viewers than the Dalai Lama.

They have certainly become stars in their own small way. Brian Birchall — the Adelphi's banqueting manager whose weekly shouting match with the chef David Smith was beginning to look as staged as a wrestling bout — says he is accosted on the streets of Liverpool by well-meaning pass-

ers-by with the phrase "Just cewk, will ya!" — a command he hurled at chef a few weeks ago. At the end of last night's programme, as we were being brought up to date on what has happened to the "players" since the cameras stopped rolling, we learnt that Christine, the receptionist, finally had her baby and that hard-working Brian has been promoted to deputy manager. What this means for his pay packet I don't know. But presumably it guarantees him above-the-title billing if a second series does go ahead.

Instead of trying to make stars out of learner drivers, Stella Smith (BBC2) has approached fake celebrity from a different angle and created a surreal street in Suburbia, inhabited by some of Hollywood's biggest names. Michael Caine, Jack Nicholson, Joe Pesci, Al Pacino worries about the price of chicken fillets at Asda. David Bowie lives at No 2, Dirk Bogarde

at No 56. Mick Jagger and Keith Richard run the corner shop, with Mick always worrying if the cling films have passed their sell-by date. Oh yes, Jimmy Hill's there. And Mrs Huggert, cleaning lady to the stars. It is hard to tell whether this ten-part, ten-minute suburban soap will prove to be an historic gem or whether it will turn out to have shorter legs than a cobra, but I am veering towards the historic television gem. It's all so deliciously preposterous.

Obviously, it's hard to get Hollywood stars to act in Brookside or Eastenders, so Caine, Nicholson, et al, are played here by impressionists Phil Cornwell and John Sessions, and directed by Peter Richardson: a case of "Celi-ci n'est pas Michael Caine". It's fake, but no more fake than making stars out of real-life hotel receptionists. Cormwell's Caine is pure Alfie.

After seeing Jack Nicholson run indoors with yet another blonde, Caine looks into the camera and says: "Dirty little monkey, innit. He's like a rat up a drainpipe." Later, spotting Joe Pesci digging a large, grave-size hole in his back garden, Caine inquires: "Oh, Joe, what's got there? Is that a bitta mulch?" When Pesci answers: "What the ***'s mulch?", Michael explains, in a neighbourly way: "Mulch is something that you put underneath to bed in your roses and other 'ardy plants."

Pesci gets angry very quickly during games of Monopoly, when his neighbours refuse to let him build whorshouses instead of hotels on Vine Street. "He has a tendency towards psychotic violence," stammers Jimmy Hill. "And, you know, that scares me. I must say, 'Frankly, anything that wipes the smile off Jimmy Hill's face gets my vote.'

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (56743)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (50101)

9.00 This! Entertainment Part II (1978, b/w) Fred Astaire and Gene Kelly introduce a compilation of MGM musical and comedy highlights (T) (31588)

11.00 A Christmas Story (1983) Family comedy following a young boy as he grows up in suburban Indiana in the 1940s. Peter Billingsley stars (22859)

12.30pm *Household Ready, Steady, Cook* (EastEnders) Wendy Richard and Todd Carty join chefs Ainsley Harriott and Tony Tobin (T) (20385)

1.00 News (T) and weather (17071525)

1.30 Regional News (66911385)

1.45 Neighbours (T) (22303059)

2.05 Petrocelli (T) (5856526)

3.00 *Vets in Practice* (T) (8453)

3.30 *Playdays* (T) (7374594) 5.30 Arthur (7356303) 10.45 *To Me, To You* (3699410)

4.35 *The Mask* (2056120) 5.00 *Newround* (T) (567435) 11.00 *Aqua*. Last in series (T) (5683749)

5.35 Neighbours (T) (100255)

6.00 News (T) and weather (594)

6.30 Regional News (546)

7.00 Holiday Inn Dando follows in the wake of the Piggy Father to Cape Cod; Caroline Quin explores the midwives and courtship of Bettie; Sophie Allouez reports from the Turkish port of Marmaris; Rose Kelly visits an unusual theme park in Holland; and John Holdsworth tries a bargain break in Vienna (T) (5682)

7.30 A Question of Sport Sports quiz chaired by Sue Barker (T) (830)

8.00 EastEnders Tiffany falls out with Aunt Sal (T) (1472)

8.30 Airport A behind-the-scenes look at Heathrow during the hectic Christmas period, following harassed staff as they try to locate a missing plane, cope with uncircumstances passengers and rescue two funny creatures who are in the wrong place at the wrong time (T) (8697)

9.00 News (T) and weather (8695)

9.30 *Cheer* and *Present Danger* (1994)

CIA agent Jack Ryan gets involved in the Colombian drugs trade while trying to track down terrorists responsible for murdering a prominent senator. Based on the novel by Tom Clancy, also starring William Devane. Directed by Philip Noyce (8840304)

11.45 *Belle Miller*: Diva Las Vegas The singing superstar takes centre stage at the MGM Grand, Las Vegas (768825)

WALES: 11.45 FAW Invitational Cup: Highlights of League of Wales Newtown v Cardiff City and Conwy United v Bangor City (361618) 12.00am *Belle Miller*: Diva Las Vegas (5229618) 1.30 *Film: Dream Lover* (745227) 3.30 *News* (0235785)

3.35 BBC News 24

1.15 *Dream Lover* (1986) Thriller, with Kira McNichol, Ben Masters, Gayle Hunnicut and Paul Shener. Directed by Alan J. Pakula (775008)

2.45 Weather (3103163)

3.00 BBC News 24

BBC2

7.15pm *Teletubbies* (T) (2037684) 7.40 *Secret Life of the Reptile* (T) (4192579) 7.55 *Tally Duck* (T) (6815762) 8.15 *Big Peter* (T) (7978585) 8.40 *Harry and the Hendersons* (T) (6334169) 9.10 *Jonny Quest* (T) (479144) 9.15 *Sweet Valley High* (T) (6614410) 9.25 *Pingu* (T) (7675761) 10.00 *Teletubbies* (45781)

10.30 *The Last Unicorn* (1982) Animated fantasy featuring a host of star names (E4146)

12.00 *Gypsy Colt* (1954) with Donna Corcoran, Ward Bond and Patrick McGoohan. A youngster is heartbroken by his parents' decision to sell her horse. Directed by Andrew Merton (7537014)

1.10pm *Fireman Sam* (3351304) 1.20 *Gold Cup* (1992) 1.25 *Challenge* (2046233) 2.10 *Winter Showers* (6424747) 2.40 *New 24* (T) (6620783) 3.15 *Clo-Clo on James Stewart* (712449) 3.25 *New 30 Snowjumper* (50743)

4.30 *The Philadelphia Story* (1940, b/w) Schlesinger's romantic comedy with Katharine Hepburn, Cary Grant and James Stewart. Directed by George Cukor (T) (4254743)

6.20 *Close-Up on James Stewart* (569410)

7.00 *Fireman Sam* (3351305) 7.15 *Two* (1992) 7.30 *Winter Showers* (6424747) 7.40 *New 24* (T) (6620783) 8.15 *Clo-Clo on James Stewart* (712449) 8.30 *Philadelphia Story* (1940, b/w) Schlesinger's romantic comedy with Katharine Hepburn, Cary Grant and James Stewart. Directed by George Cukor (T) (4254743)

8.30 *Two* (1992) 8.45 *Happy Days* (1974) 9.00 *Meridian* (T) (6815761) 9.30 *Double Fantasy* (1995) 10.00 *Meridian* (T) (6815761)

10.30 *Regional News* (5691912)

11.00 *Movie Magic: The Final Frontier* The world of space films (1229633)

11.45 *No Greater Love* (1995) Daniele Steel's period drama about a woman who loses her parents and finds on the Titanic and later, in love, with the running of a newspaper business. Directed by Richard Helton (T) (7805743)

12.30pm *Regional News* (5691912)

1.30 *Friends* (1994) 1.45 *Meridian* (T) (6815761)

2.00 *The Making of Hercules* (1983) (T) (187830)

2.25 *Regional Weather* (501269)

3.00 *Regional News* (569410)

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RACING 33
Age no barrier
to glory
for Bradley

SPORT

TUESDAY DECEMBER 23 1997

AMERICAN FOOTBALL 38

Sanders runs
into the
record books

Tottenham recruit former favourite in attempt to ease worries about relegation

Klinsmann reclaims his Spurs

By MATT DICKINSON

YOU cannot put a price on confidence or star quality; but at £175,000, the superficial amount it took to lure Jürgen Klinsmann so spectacularly back to the FA Carling Premiership yesterday, Tottenham Hotspur appear to have secured the bargain of a lifetime.

A week ago, the only reason for 100 supporters to have gathered at the gates of White Hart Lane was to start a revolt. Yesterday, lunchtime they sang, danced and cavorted as the German forward swept in and out, dallying for just a couple of hours to sign a six-month contract. Third from bottom? Who cares? Jürgen's back.

It is safe to assume the celebrations were equally ecstatic at the club's Chigwell training ground, where the players know first-hand what Klinsmann is capable of, from

ship, that puts him in the top bracket of the Premiership's illustrious names, higher than anyone at Manchester United, where Roy Keane sits on top of the pile, but less than Alan Shearer, the England captain.

No one at Spurs will begrudge it, though, if he repeats the achievements of his previous visit when he scored 29 goals, missed just one Premiership game, and won the Footballer of the Year award for services to charm as well as football following his arrival from AS Monaco.

That also was a time when the club were undergoing managerial upheaval, with Gerry Francis succeeding Osvaldo Ardiles in mid-campaign. Francis passed on a dispirited side to Christian Gross a month ago, and while the Swiss coach stressed that it is goals he principally wants from Klinsmann, he will know that the injection of enthusiasm will be equally vital, just as it proved three years ago, in lifting Spurs from relegation trouble.

There are many, though, who will believe Tottenham's money might have been better-spent on a world-class defender or central midfield player, for all of the German's wonderful gifts.

Klinsmann, radiant as ever although sparing the jokes this time around, believes he can meet the daunting expectations. "I am captain of the German national team so I don't have any problem with pressure in football," he said.

"I have kept in very close touch with what is going on at Spurs ever since I left, because this is where I felt most at home. If I ever considered coming back to England, it could never be to any other club than Spurs because of the fans and the whole environment. The team is good enough to save itself, but I can give them a hand."

Klinsmann, who won the UEFA Cup and Bundesliga in his two years at Bayern Munich following his move from Spurs, has been restricted at Sampdoria to just eight Serie A games and two goals by an ankle injury. A row with Vujadin Boskov, the club's

forward hoping to make a tumultuous debut against Arsenal at White Hart Lane on Sunday, possibly as captain, the strength of that affection will quickly be put to its ultimate test.

If he does play, it will be in the No 33 shirt (shared by his favourite basketball player, Scottie Pippen of the Chicago Bulls) and it was a prominent figure yesterday, being both Klinsmann's age and approximately the number of pounds — multiplied by a thousand, of course — that he will earn each week as the club's highest-paid player.

It is a salary, boosted by hefty bonuses for helping to keep Spurs in the Premier-

ship, that puts him in the top bracket of the Premiership's illustrious names, higher than anyone at Manchester United, where Roy Keane sits on top of the pile, but less than Alan Shearer, the England captain.

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Klinsmann, who won the

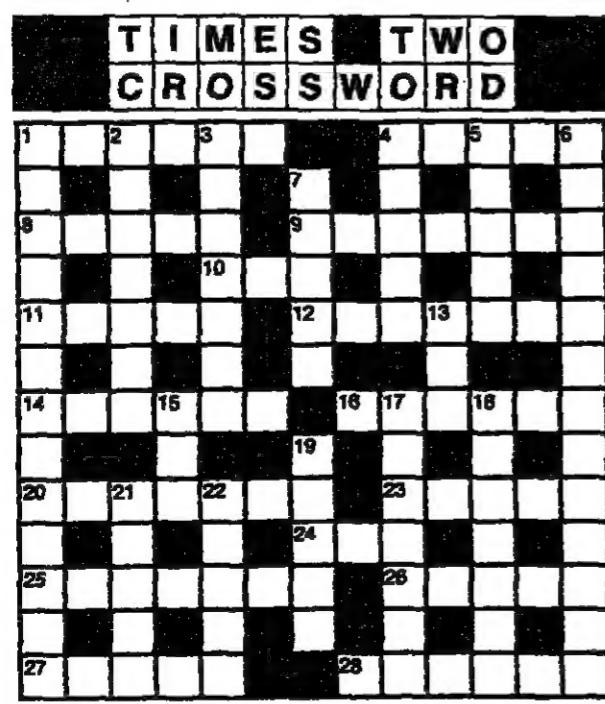
UEFA Cup and Bundesliga in his two years at Bayern Munich following his move from Spurs, has been restricted at Sampdoria to just eight Serie A games and two goals by an ankle injury. A row with Vujadin Boskov, the club's

the 1994-95 season when he achieved the ultimate in English football of winning respect even from opposing supporters.

With the former Sampdoria forward hoping to make a tumultuous debut against Arsenal at White Hart Lane on Sunday, possibly as captain, the strength of that affection will quickly be put to its ultimate test.

If he does play, it will be in the No 33 shirt (shared by his favourite basketball player, Scottie Pippen of the Chicago Bulls) and it was a prominent figure yesterday, being both Klinsmann's age and approximately the number of pounds — multiplied by a thousand, of course — that he will earn each week as the club's highest-paid player.

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Klinsmann shows his delight at being back in the White Hart Lane fold and hopes to play just as important a role in his second spell

Serbian coach, proved the final straw and allowed Alan Sugar, the Tottenham chairman, to pull off his stunning coup.

On a day of surprises, perhaps the biggest was hearing Sugar own up to naivety in the way he publicly fell out with Klinsmann in the summer of 1995, when the German exercised an opt-out clause in his two-year contract after 12 months and moved to Bayern for £200,000. Presented with one of the striker's shirts then, Sugar said he would not even wash his car with it.

"That may have been the situation two or three years ago," he said yesterday, "but it is all water under the bridge. I was naive and that is my problem. Do you have to keep eating humble pie?"

Sugar preferred to dwell on the glorious memories he

hopes Klinsmann can revive, although at 33 it may be asking a lot to expect a similar goalscoring return, even though he is still regarded highly enough to spearhead the German national team.

"I remember his first game at Sheffield Wednesday when he started to light up the club, in fact the whole Premiership," Sugar said. "He got smashed in the face and had to

be carried off on a stretcher to have his mouth stitched up. That was his welcome to English football, but he came back to play against Everton the following Wednesday and scored a great scissor-kick goal. It was that spirit we all admired very much."

"People go on about coming over here for the money but I know it is because he enjoys it. He told me how much he likes

being able to walk around Hampstead without being hassled, something he could never do in Milan."

Amid the scrum surrounding Klinsmann, who claimed he had no coaching ambitions for at least a few years, it was almost as an afterthought that Sugar confirmed that David Pleat will be joining as director of football on January 15.

Pleat will be in charge of the youth and scouting set-up and also involved in negotiations over players' contracts, although Sugar was anxious to stress yesterday that Gross will have the final say on who is bought and sold. If everything goes to plan, presumably all three will be united in trying to persuade Klinsmann to extend his contract come the spring.

Pleat admitted that he was flattered to have the chance to

'It is all water under the bridge'

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

Sugar on Klinsmann's arrival, August 1994
"We told him what we have got to do and we are delighted he has chosen our club to try to win something next year and the year after."

Klinsmann on his arrival, August 1994
"Money is only a motivation up to a certain point. I came to Tottenham because I want to win something. Alan said he wanted to win the championship... that is why I came."

Sugar on Klinsmann's departure, May 1995
"I believed we had got him for at least another year. When I signed him, I looked in the whites of his eyes and genuinely felt we had an agreement for two years."

August 1995: "There are two Jürgen Klinsmanns. The one who flashes those gleaming teeth for the cameras, that lovely smile, that butter wouldn't melt in the mouth. But in private, there's a hard-nosed businessman who knows what he wants."

Klinsmann on Sugar, August 95
"He only ever talks about money, he never talks about the game. I would say there is a big question mark over whether his heart is in the club and in football. What does he like more, the business or the football?"

Sugar on Klinsmann's return
"I think we had better push everything in the past behind us. It is all water under the bridge now. It was all down to my naivety at the time... I was wrong but I can't keep continually eating humble pie."

Klinsmann on his return
"Alan asked me if there was a chance of helping them out. I had to think about it for a couple of days — it was really quick — and then I said: 'OK, let's do it.' I had a fantastic year the season I was here and was very, very comfortable because people made it very comfortable for me."

Conquering hero's return brings good cheer to White Hart Lane

Brian Glanville sees the Germany striker sign on for another short but welcome stay

half-time "This was, for me, a very negative situation," Klinsmann said. "I went up to him and told him it was not the way things should be working between us."

Enrico Mantovani, the Sampdoria president, was sympathetic. Klinsmann was allowed to join Spurs again for a mere £175,000. His reception was that of a returning hero: scores of young fans milling around the stadium gates; batteries of cameras at Bill Nicholson suite; jingles of television impedimenta.

If Klinsmann's previous club, Bayern Munich, had been as accommodating as the Italians, Gerry Francis, the former Spurs manager, might still be in charge. Francis said yesterday that he had spoken to Klinsmann several times and tried to re-sign him last season, but the German club vetoed the idea.

Christian Gross, Francis's successor, seems to have played a crucial part in the eventual signing. He even talked to Klinsmann before he accepted the job at Tottenham.

It is believed that Klinsmann may have left Tottenham initially not only because he wanted to win honours, but also because he suspected that the Spurs team were going into freefall.

The Swiss coach appears to have succeeded in reassuring him where Francis had failed.

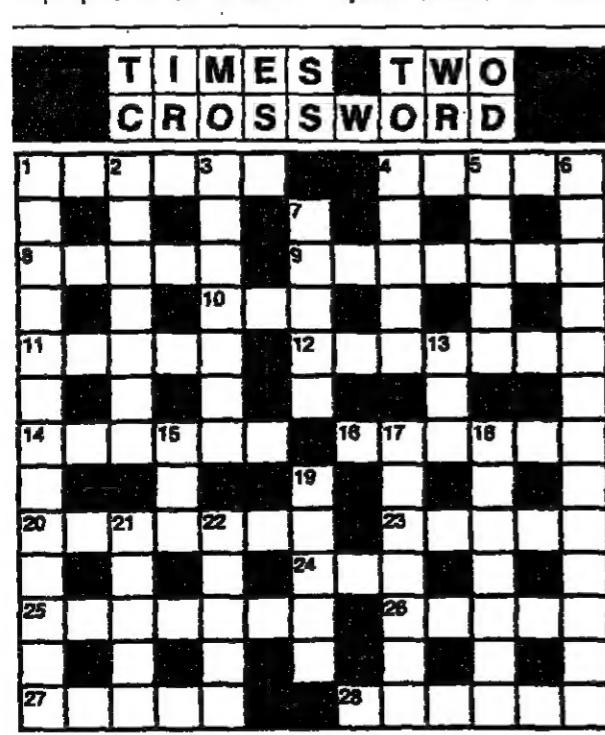
How long will Klinsmann stay at Tottenham this time? His contract lasts only until the end of the season, when he expects to captain Germany in the World Cup. He will probably make up his mind, he said, in the spring. "I'm not getting young, either. We will see what happens," he said. Bernd Vogts, the Germany manager, is happy with his choice.

Why, then, did Klinsmann leave Spurs for Bayern Munich as he did? "I went home to Germany because I wanted to play for titles," he said. "I went back to Germany and I won the titles. I had some problems with the club, with the coach. My problem was I always compared it, feeling-wise, to what happened at Tottenham."

"If I ever came back to England, I couldn't possibly have considered going back to any other club, because of how the fans treated me here. It was impossible, even if it was one of the big teams in the country." He was optimistic, he said, about Tottenham's immediate future, especially if further injuries could be avoided: "The team doesn't deserve to be down there."

Nor was Klinsmann worried that so much would be expected of him. "I don't see a danger. I'm used to the pressure. I'm used to the expectation," he said. "I don't compare myself to the one year I had with Spurs. I just go from game to game."

Sugar, Spurs and Klinsmann. Who says there is no sentiment in football? God bless us all, says Tiny Tim.



No 1284

ACROSS
1 Panhandler (6)
4 Stunted person (5)
5 Silky fibre: Mill river (G Li-
tel) (5)
9 Abstain: chorus (7)
10 Euro project (1,1): one un-
able to fly (5)
12 Unusual, foreign (7)
14 Boy chorister (6)
16 A Baltic state (6)
20 Passage from work (7)
23 Ponds: football gambling
(5)
24 Sheep sounds like a proun-
tion (5)
25 (Ripped) apart (7)
26 Show ring (5)

DOWN
1 As apprentice sailor (6,3,4)
2 Rock band follower (7)
3 Weapon store (7)
4 Po-ipone (5)
5 With speed, strength (force)
(5)
6 Joyce "dream" novel (9,4)
7 Squash infestation (5)
13 To, at the 19 (narr.) (9)
15 Parting words a run (3)
17 Molify (7)
18 Forebile (7)
19 Strict, relentless (5)
21 Very little bread, common (5)
22 Wireless (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1283
ACROSS: 1 Bypass 4 Amos 9 Squib 10 Reactor
11 Lobelia 12 Cundill 13 Creditability 17 Polly 19 Jackpot
22 Officer 23 Bucks 24 Yoyo 25 Faust
DOWN: 1 Basil 2 Plumber 3 Sibyl 5 Muted 6 Strike
7 Trial by Jury 8 Manual 14 Dry ice 15 Topical
16 Spooky 18 Lofty 20 Cobra 21 Testy

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Sugar, left, had to eat humble pie on Klinsmann's return

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